冒険少年

Boken-shonen

あだち充

Adachi Mitsuru

BIG COMICS SPECIAL

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小学館

BCS0765

ISBN4-09-180765-8

C9979 ¥1048E

定価：本体1,048円＋税

雑誌 45757-65　小学館

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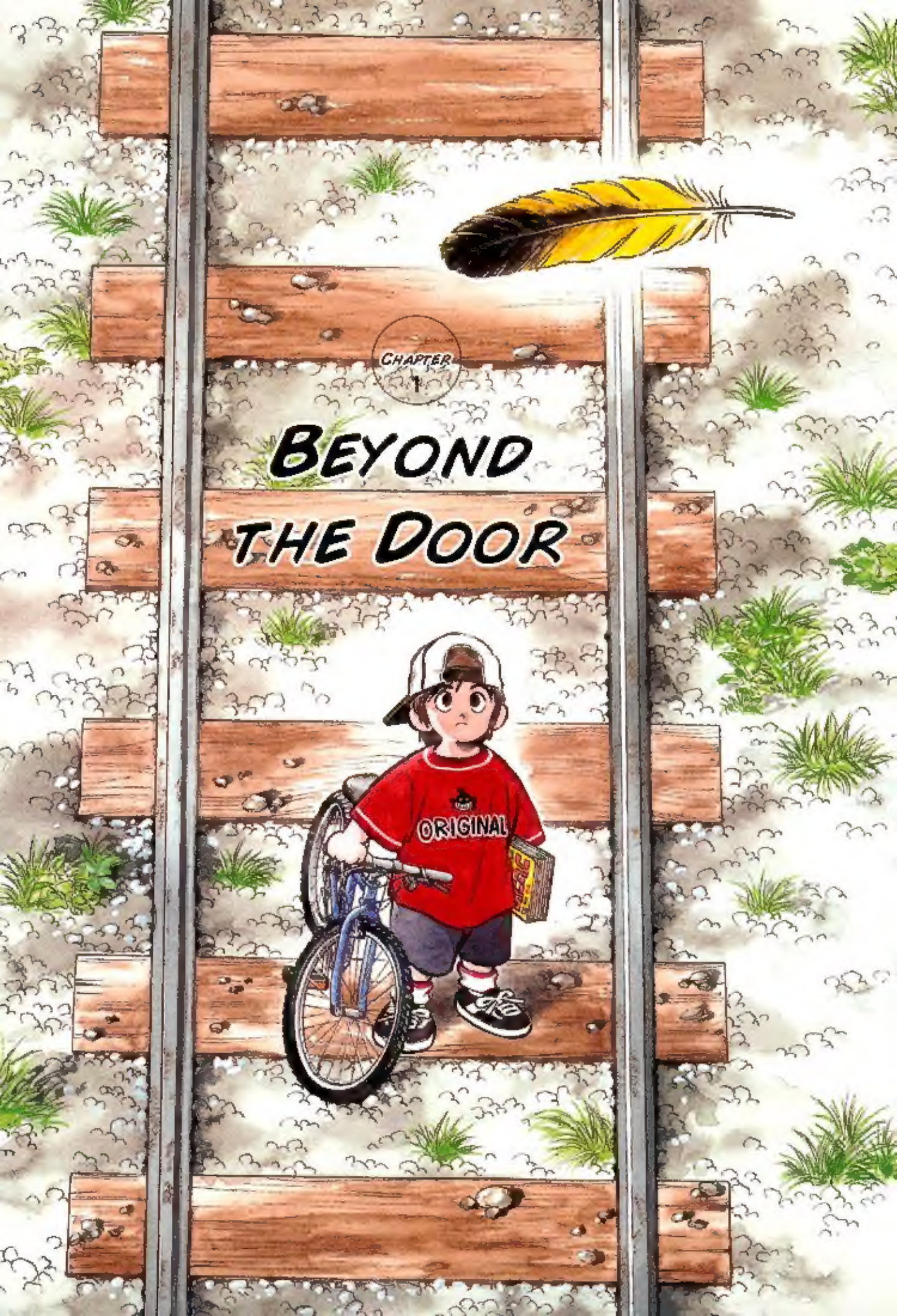
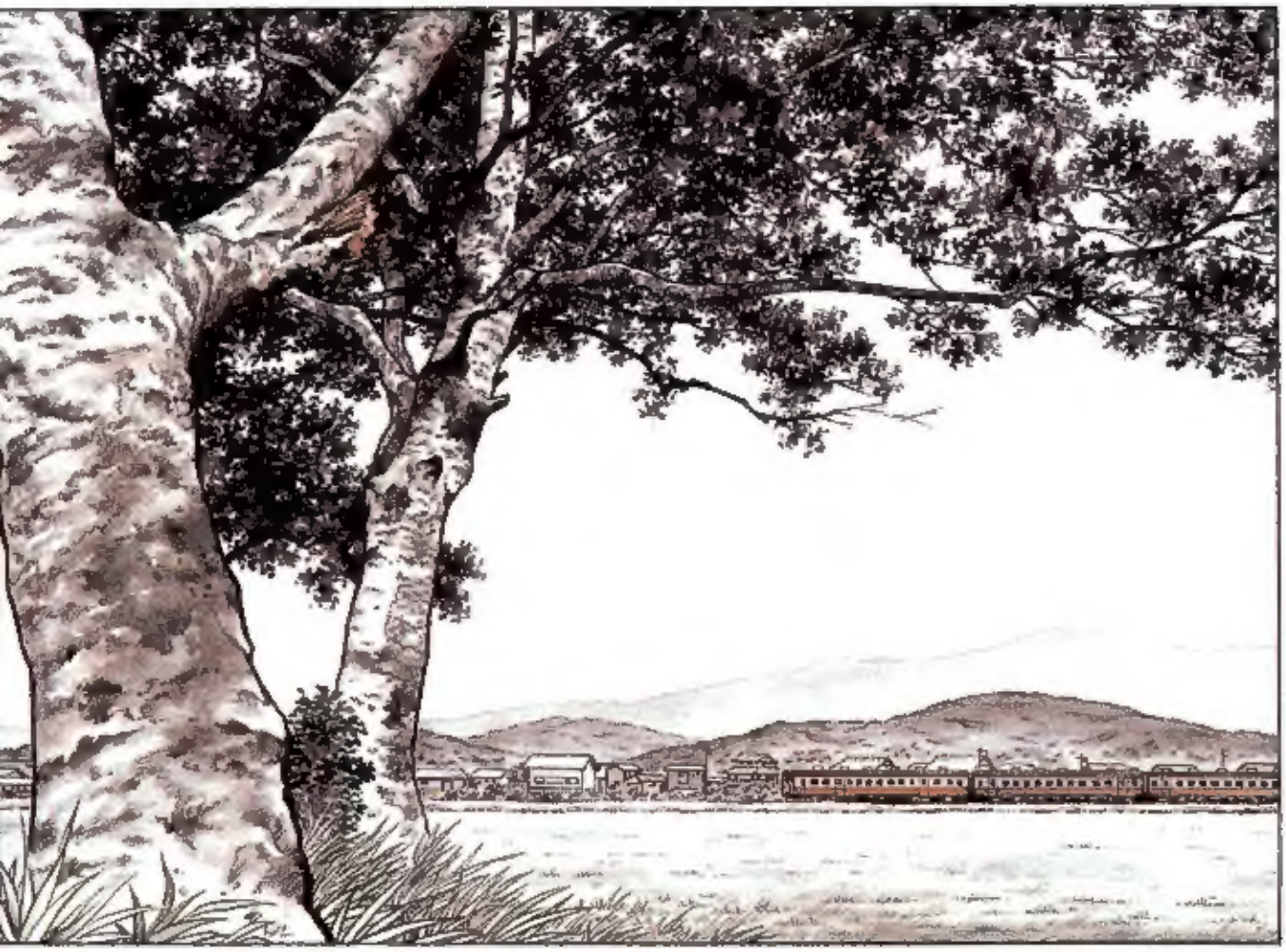

CHAPTER 1
BEYOND THE DOOR
ORIGINAL

(Note: The legendary cartoon character Doraemon is a robotic cat with the ability to pull all sorts of mysterious and magical gadgets out of his pocket which then take his friends on adventures.)

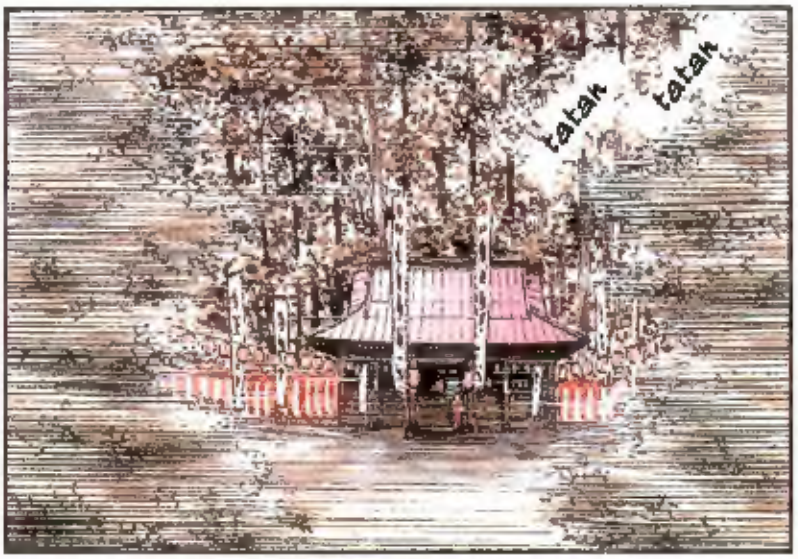
(wall: 180th Annual National High School Baseball Tournament)

It gave me the secret tools to make any of my wishes come true.

Scanned by Athanor
Translated by Stephen
Edited by Pet

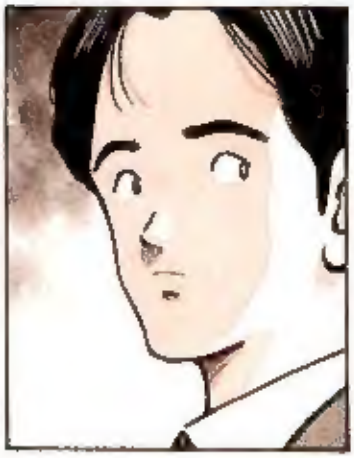


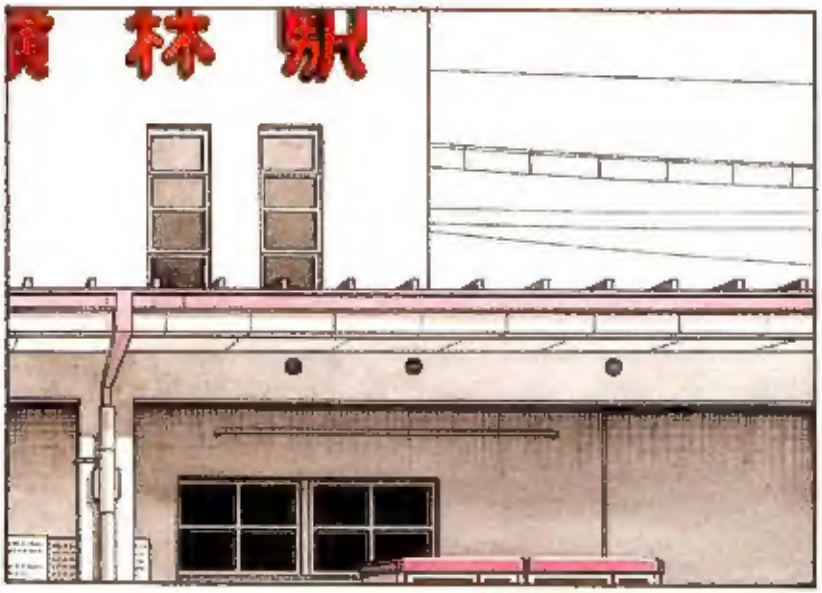
(Banner: Festival)



tatah
tatah

pshhhh




林 駅

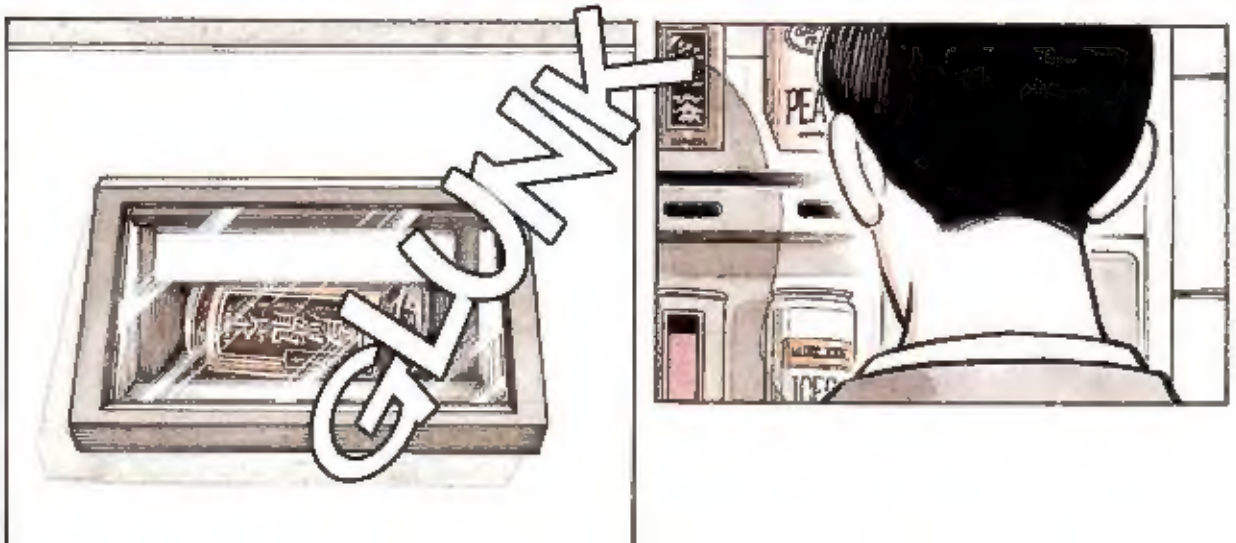
OH,
I JUST ARRIVED AT THE STATION.
WHEN DID YOU GET BACK?

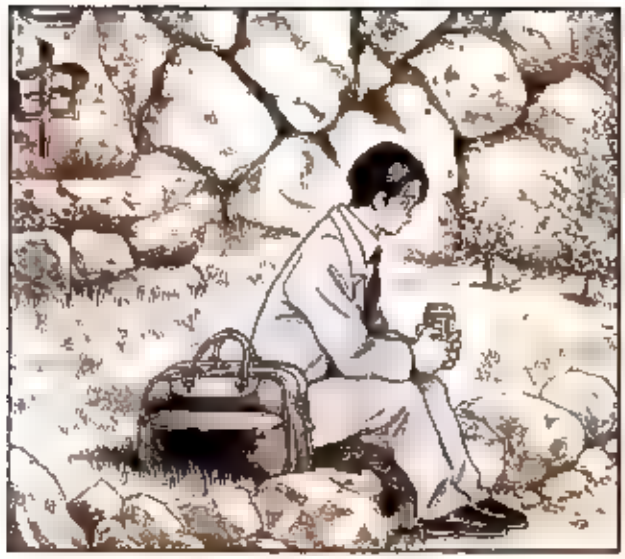
BLESS MY SOUL.
IS THAT YOU, MASAHIKO?

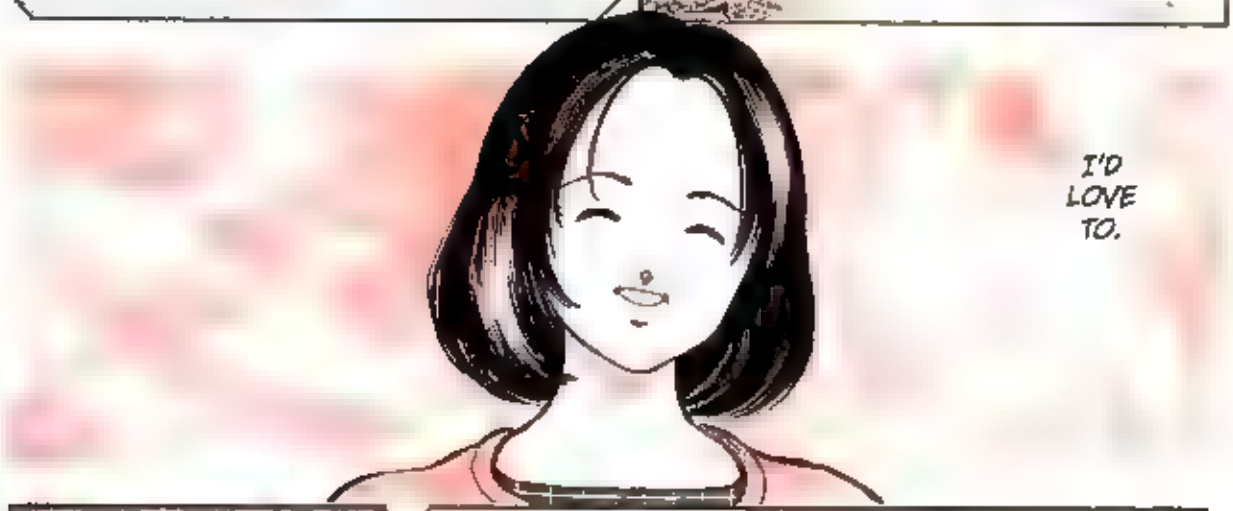
THE FALL FESTIVAL JUST ENDED.
AND WHY NOW, THEN?

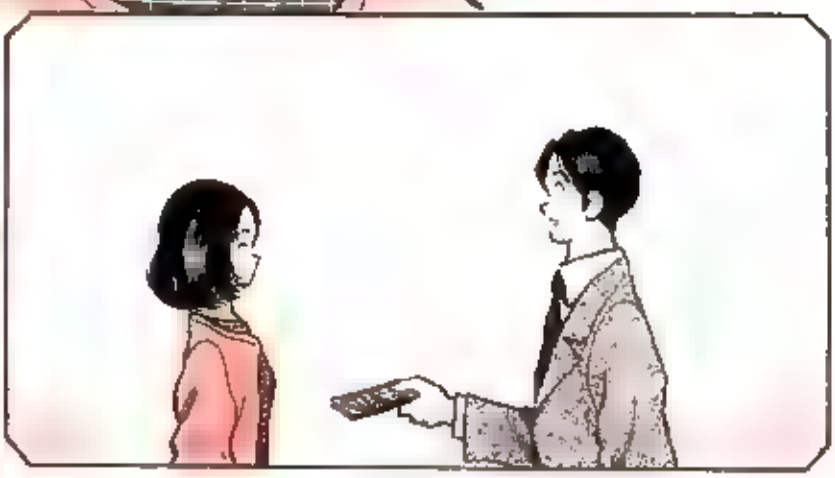
HOW'S IT BEEN?
GA HA HA HA!
HAVE YOU FOUND YOURSELF A SWEET YOUNG WIFE IN TOKYO, THEN?

CERTAINLY.
LET ME BUY AN OOLONG TEA FIRST.

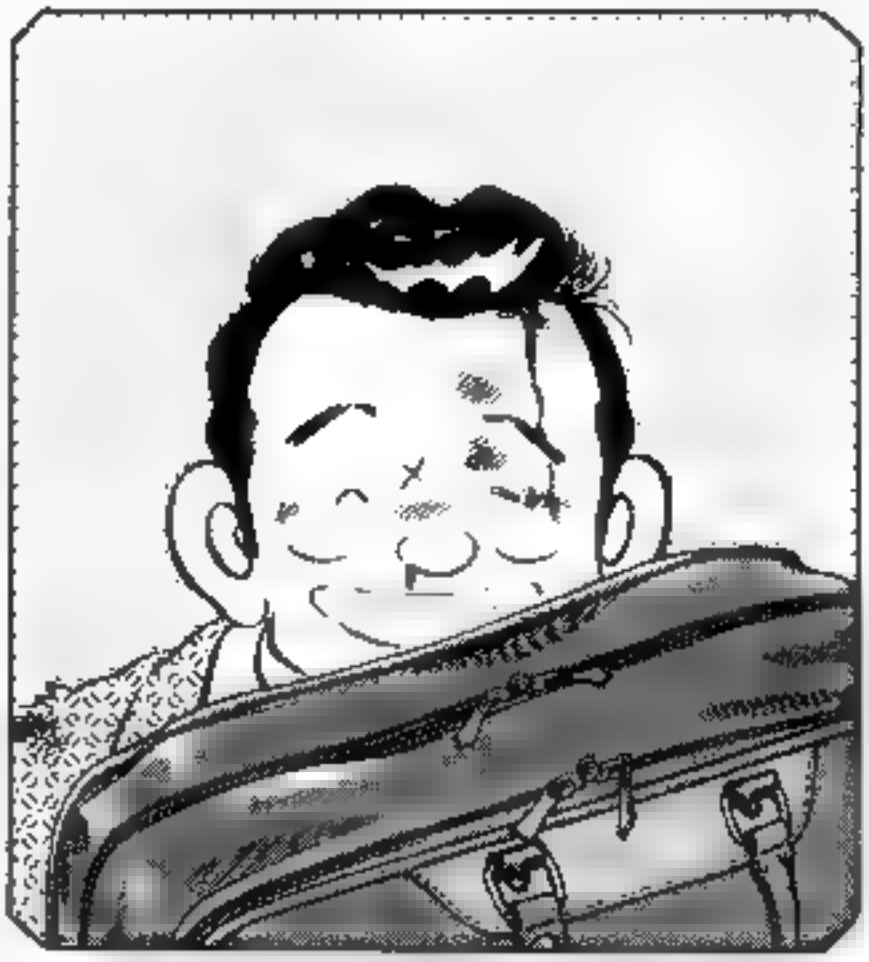

GLUNK



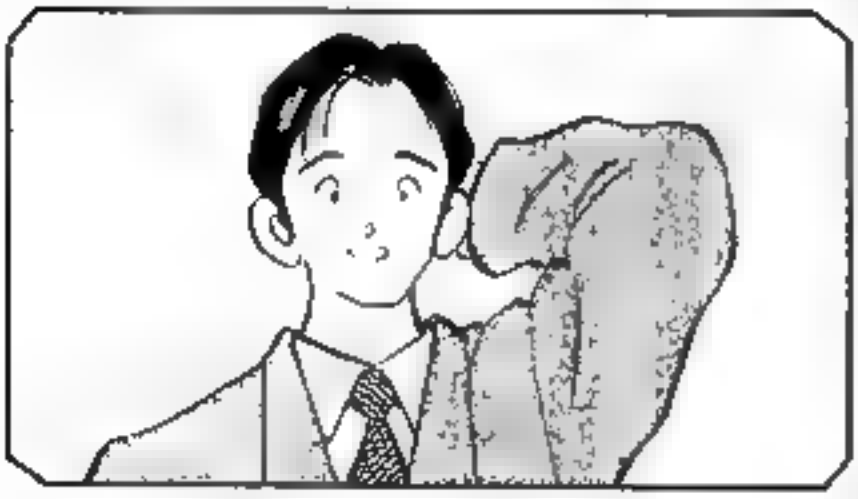

I'D LOVE TO.

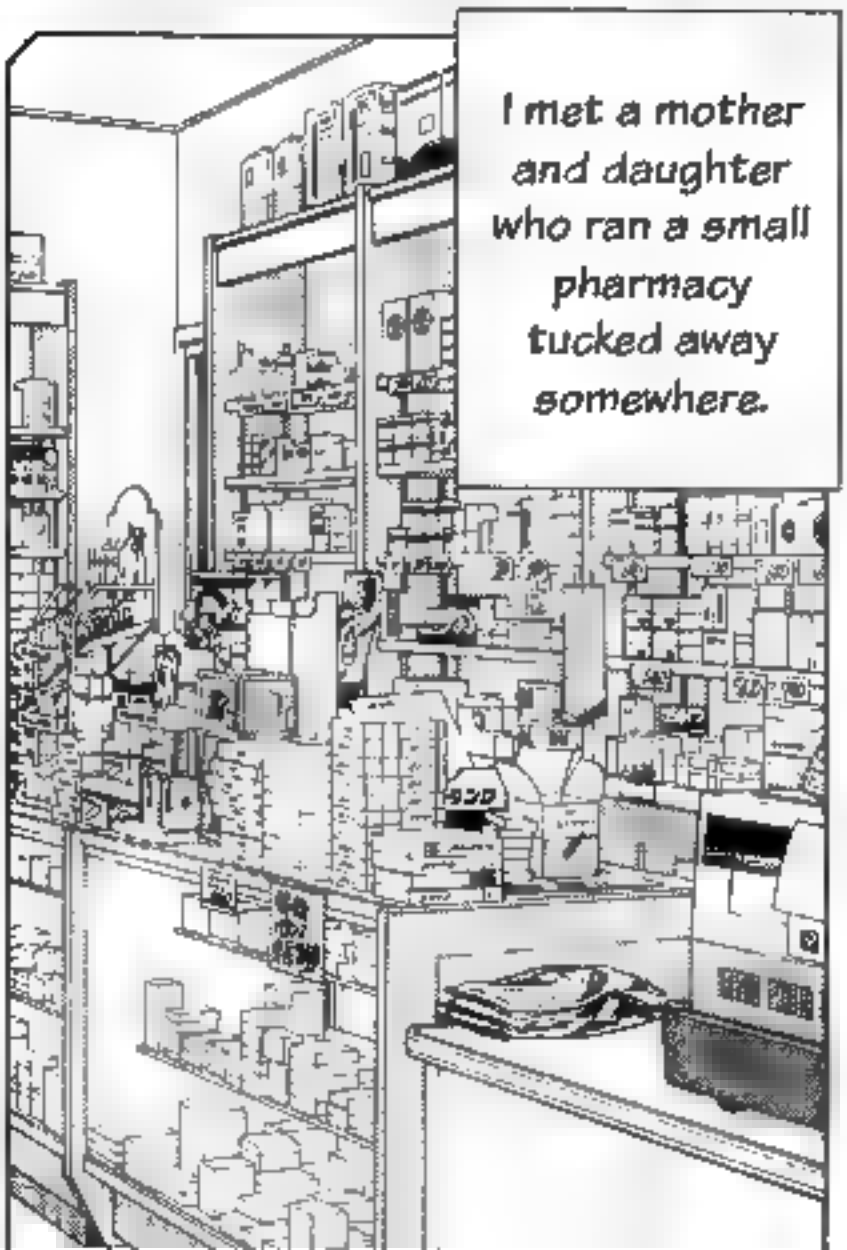


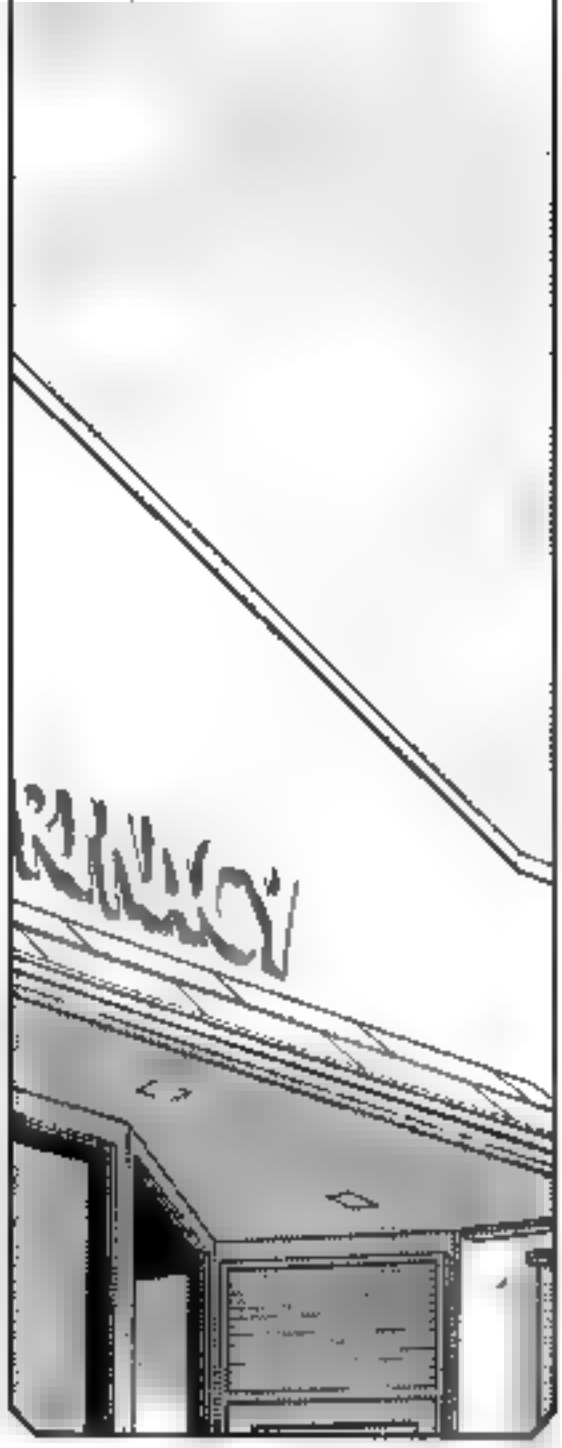
I found work with a pharmaceutical company in Tokyo, shuffling around on outdoor errands...

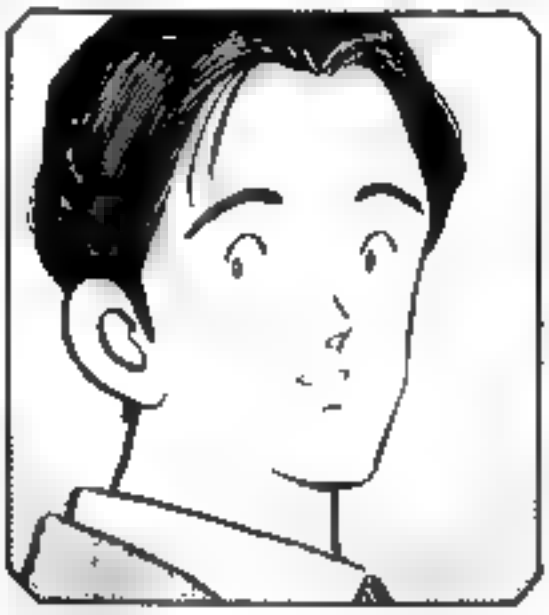


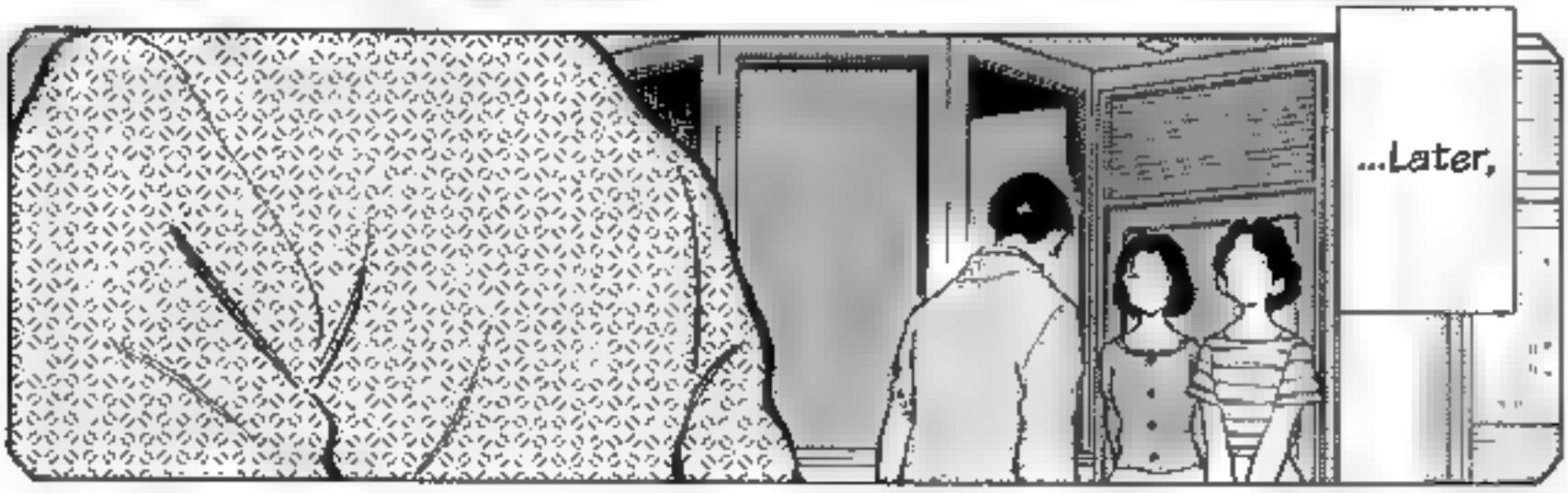
HIRUGA PHARMACY

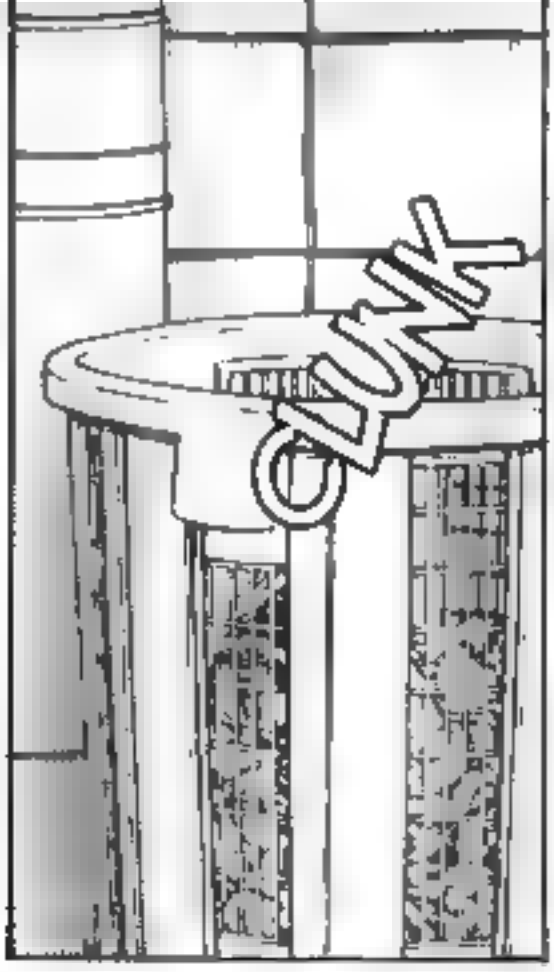


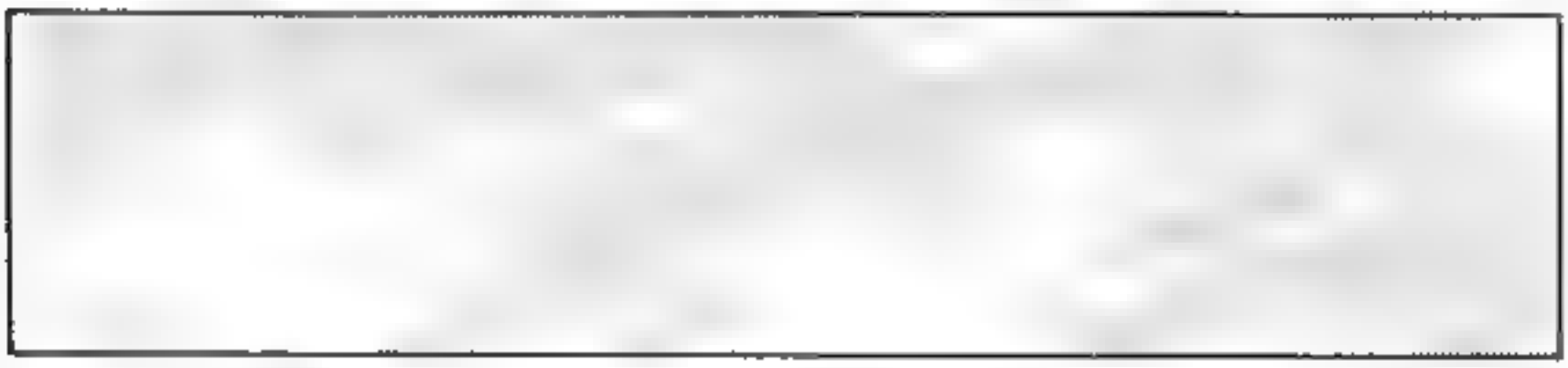

I met a mother and daughter who ran a small pharmacy tucked away somewhere.



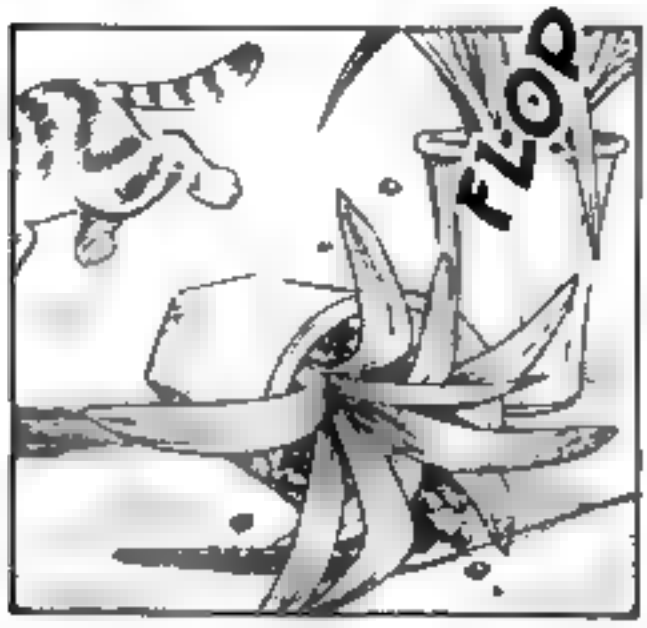


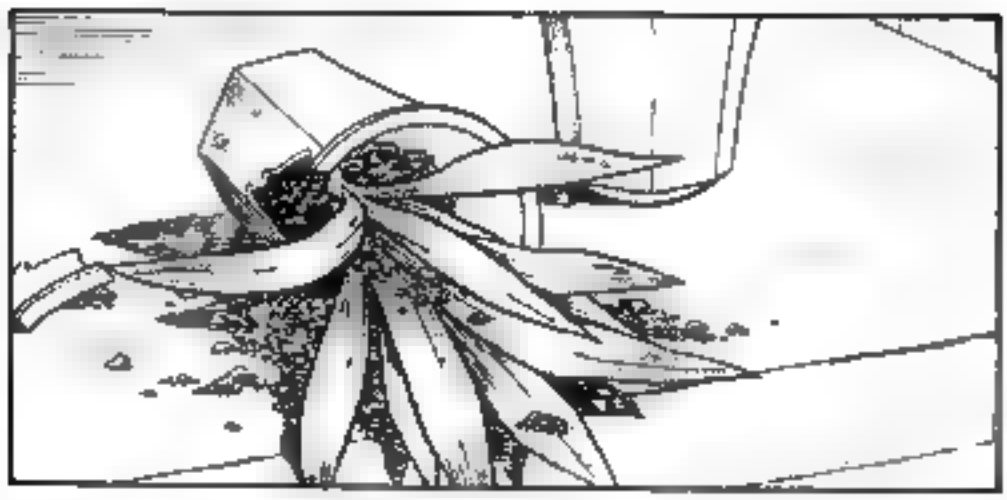

...Later,

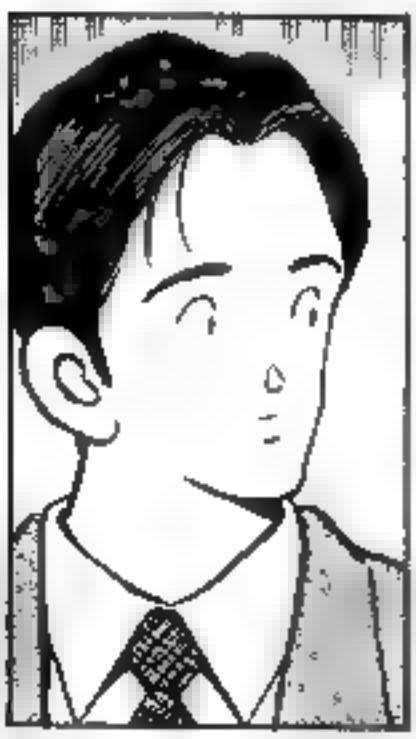

CLUNK



HISS

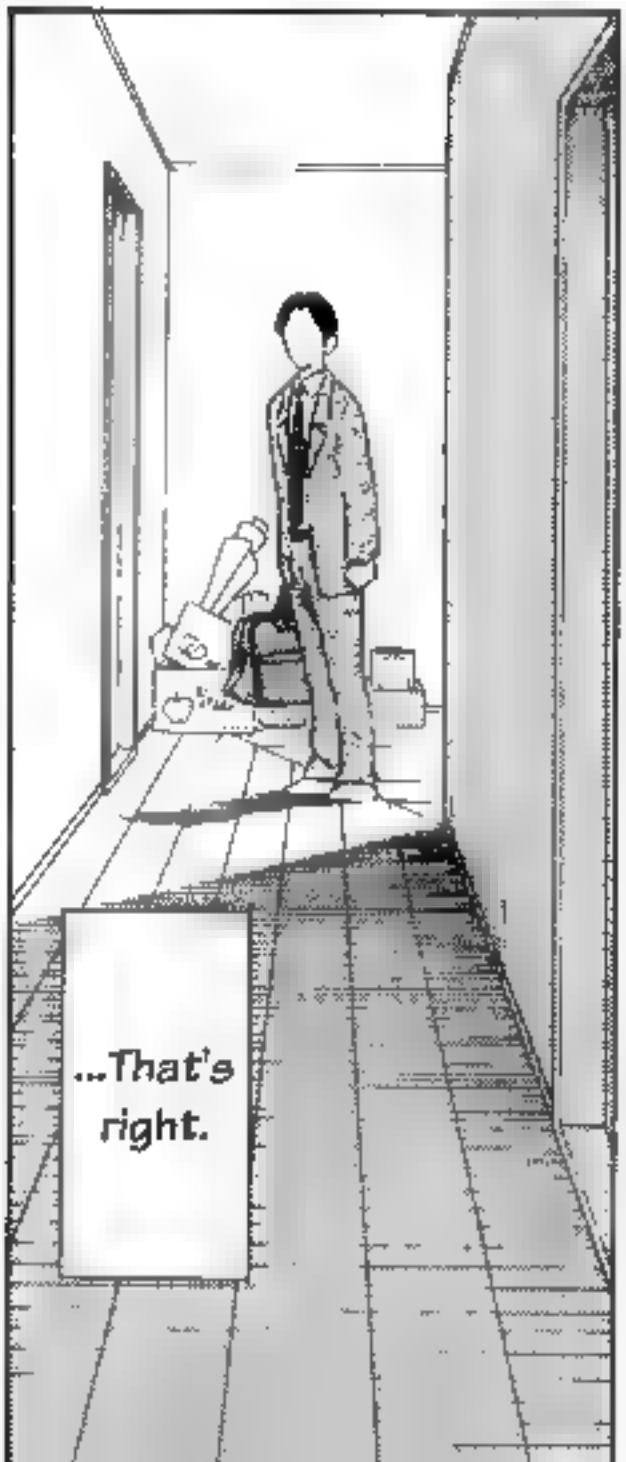

FLOP

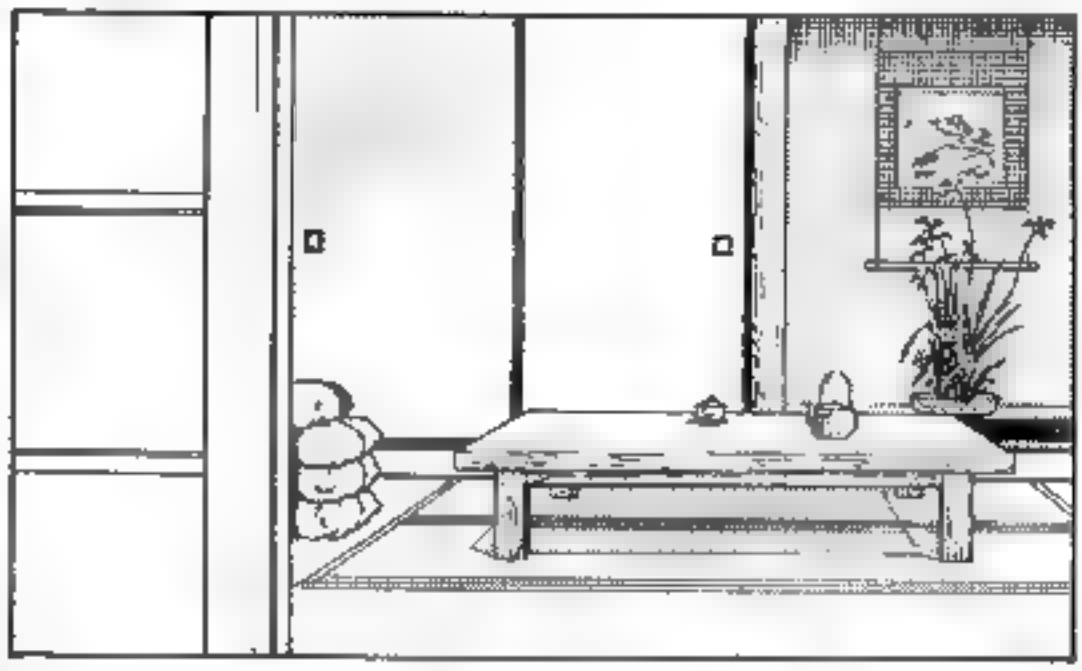


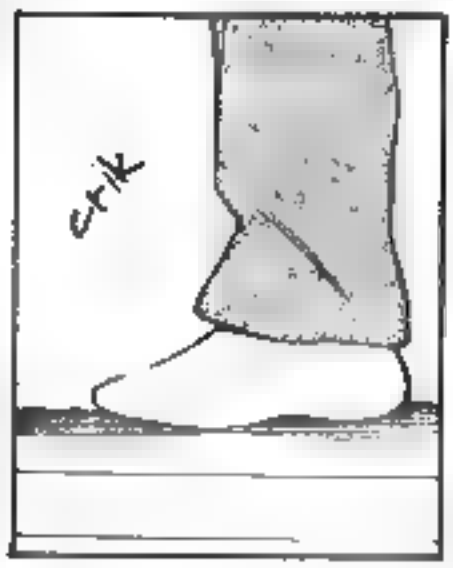


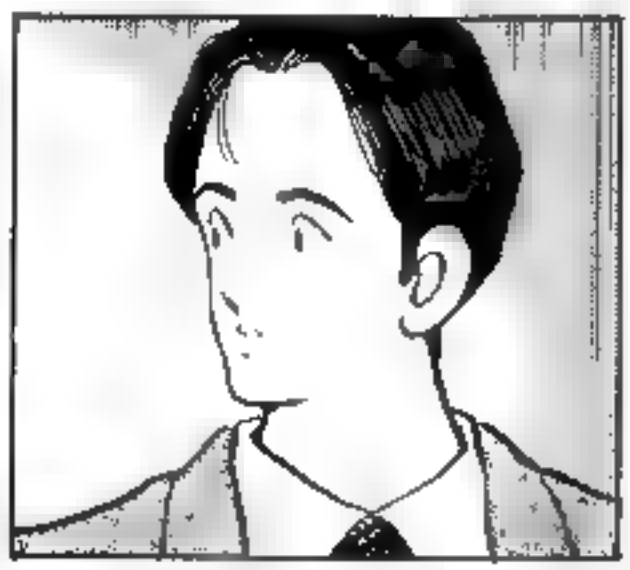
SHUNK

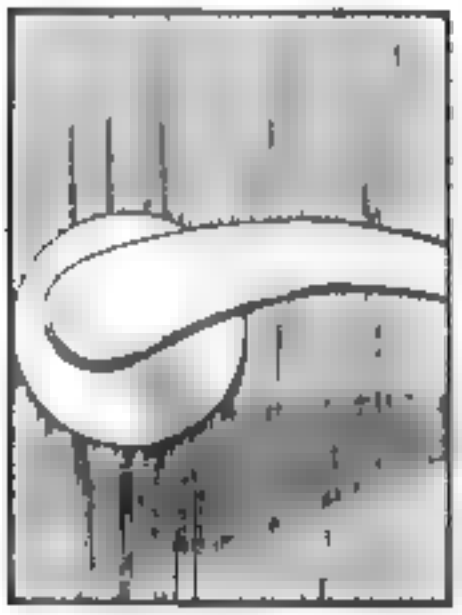
MEOWWW

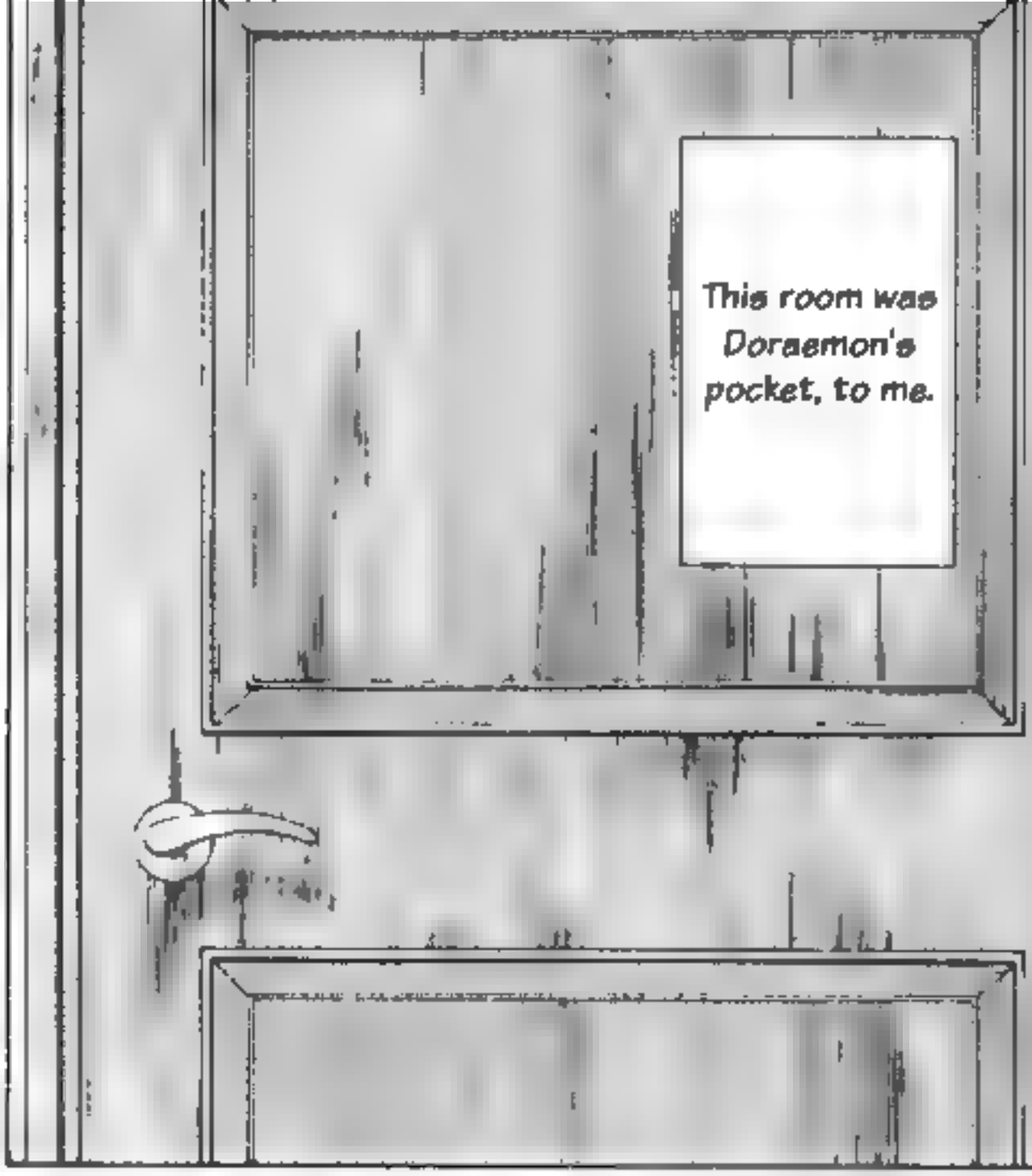

...That's right.




crik



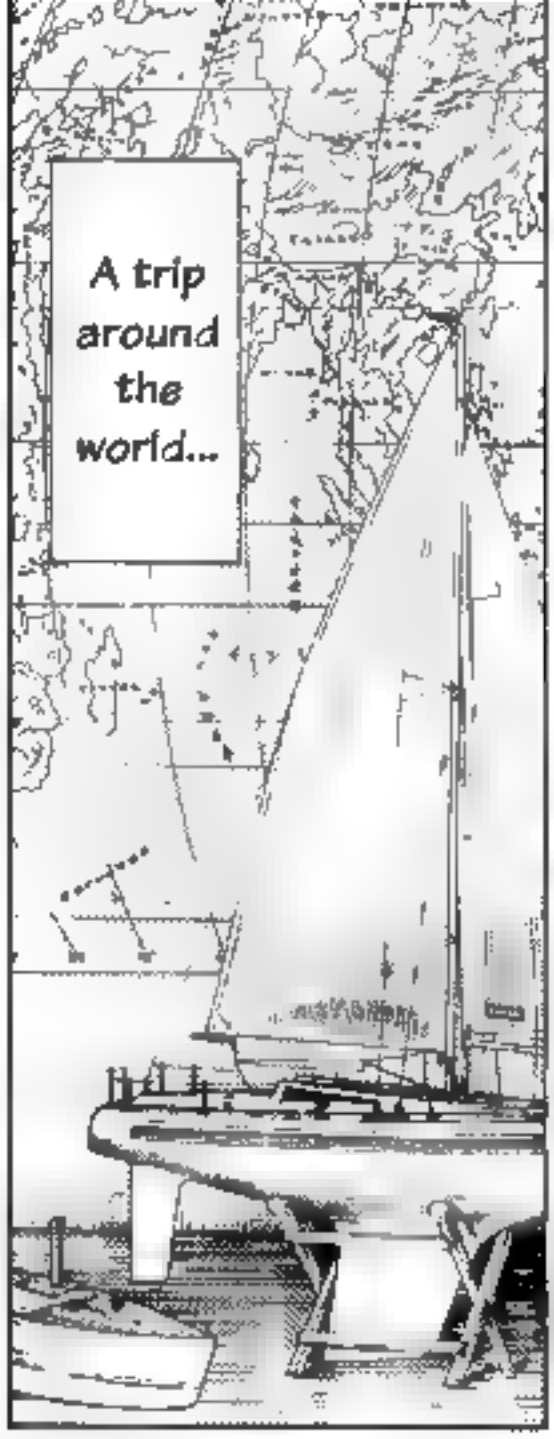


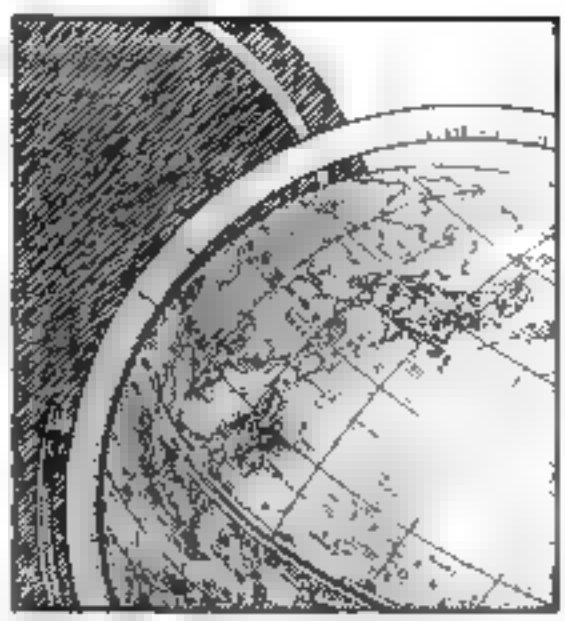

This room was Doraemon's pocket, to me.

It gave me the secret tools to make any of my wishes come true.

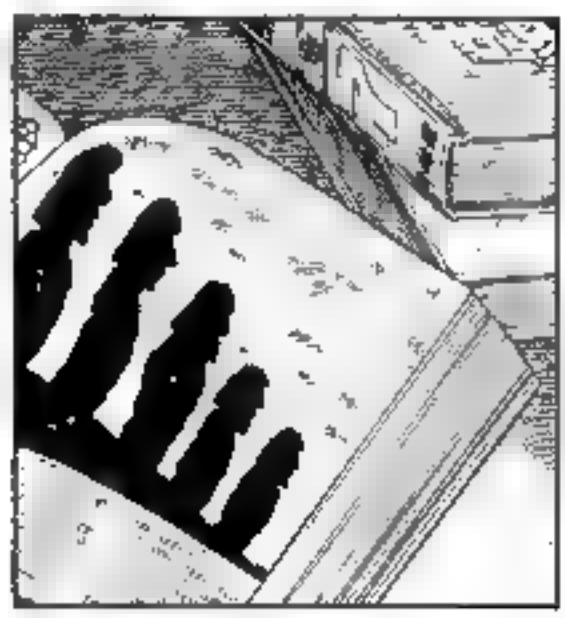
click

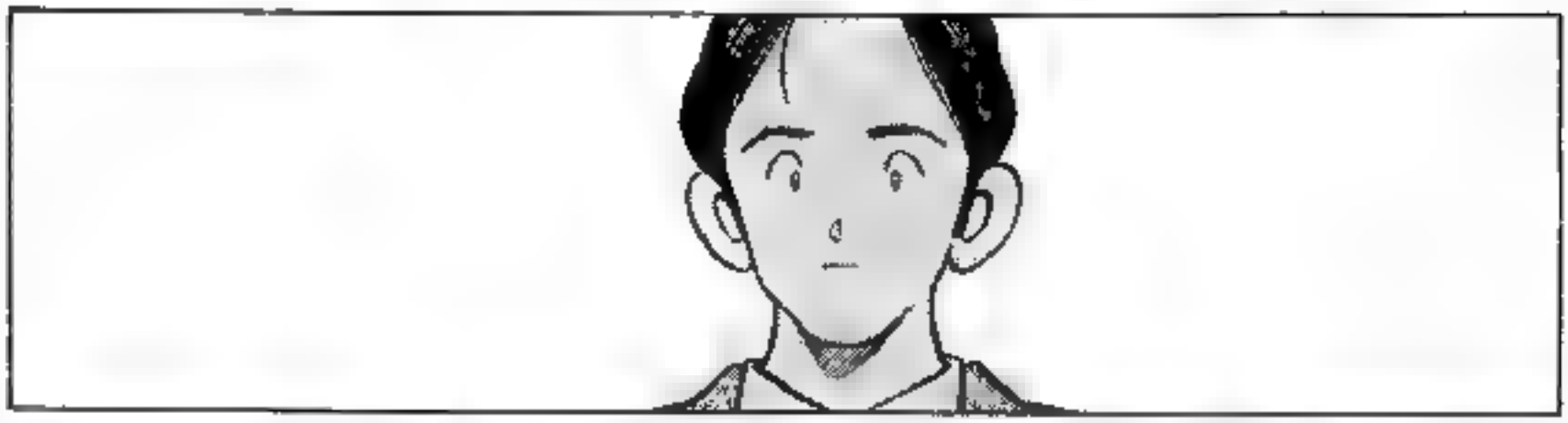
宇宙人探索
大宇宙論


A trip around the world...

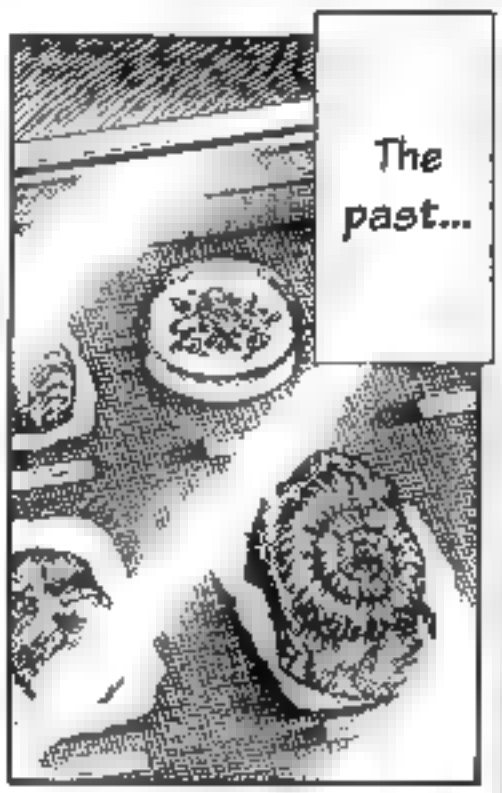


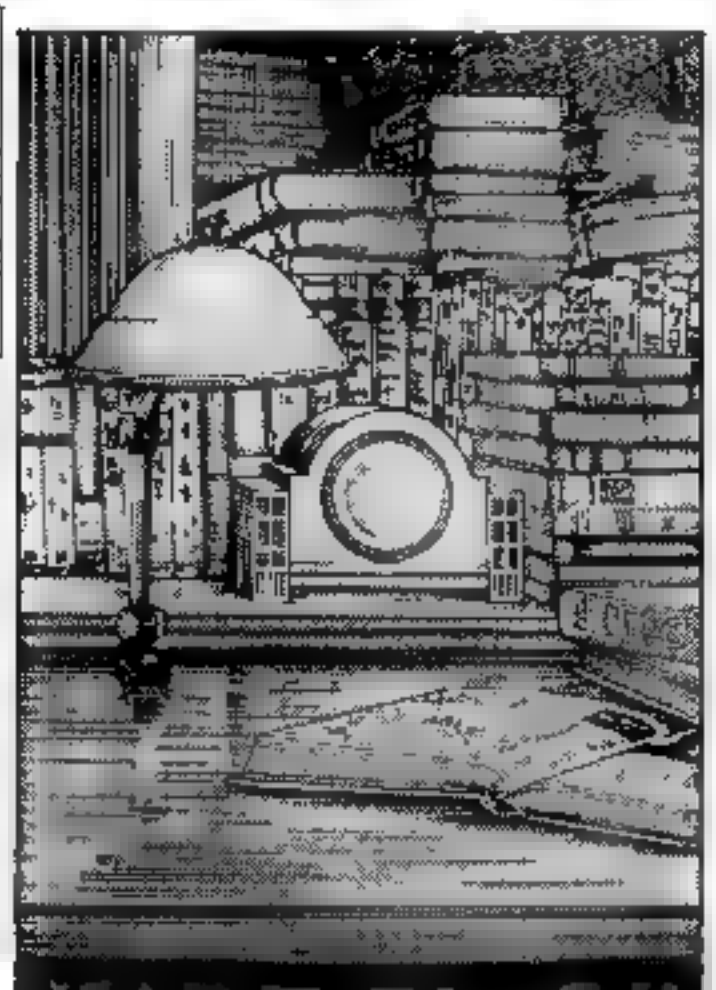
...and not just that, but also space.

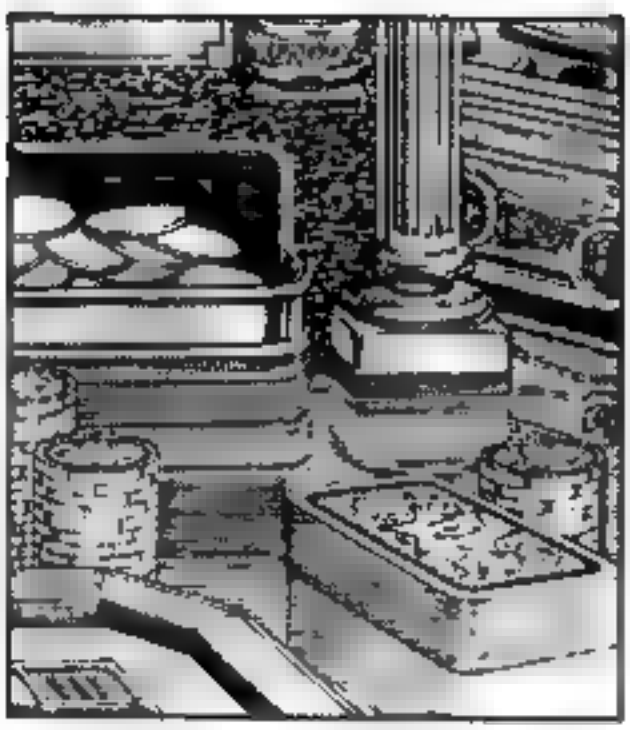


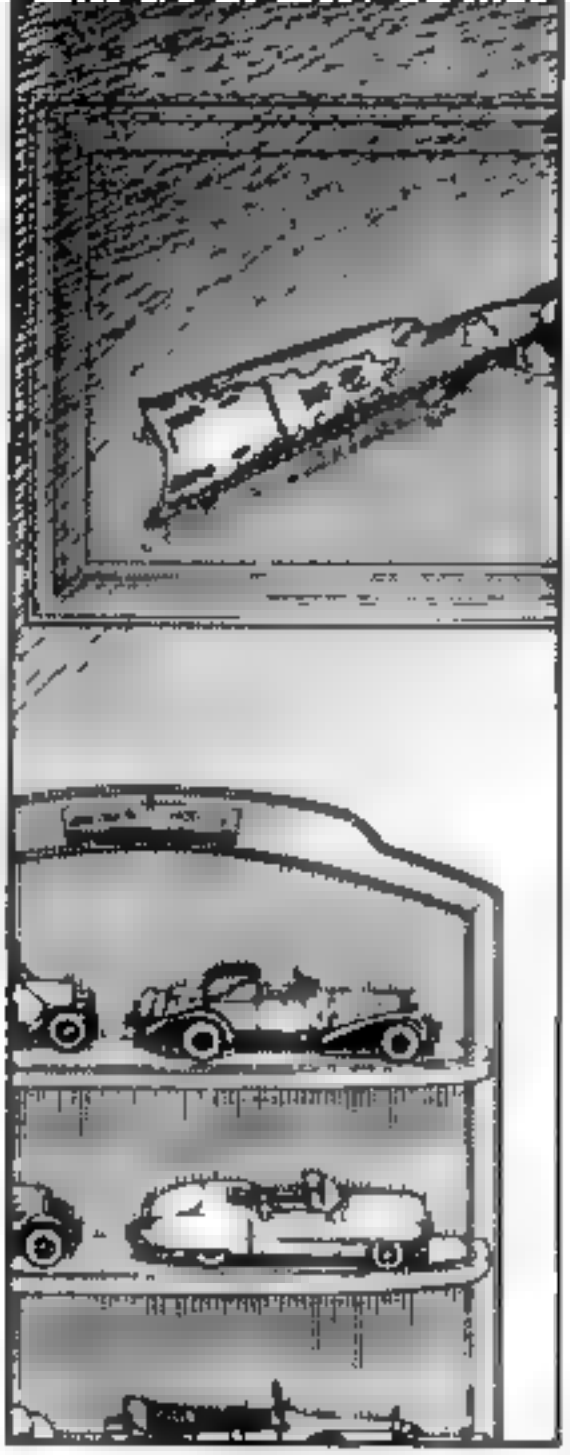


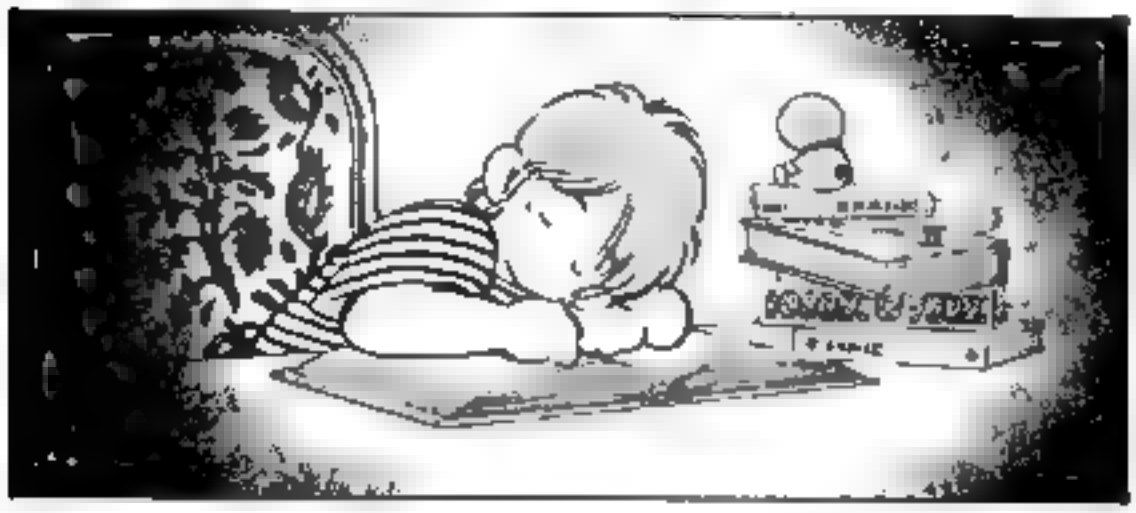
The future ...

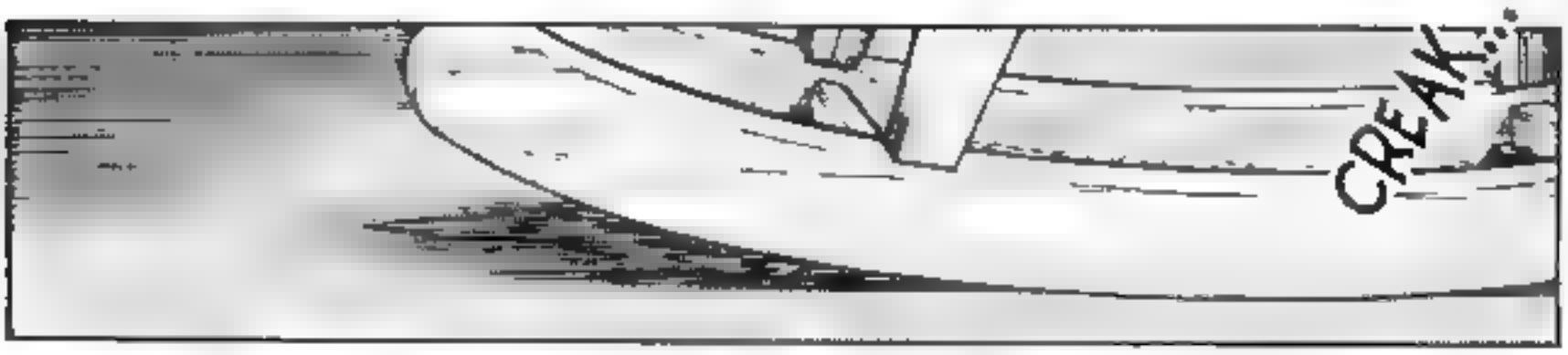

The past...



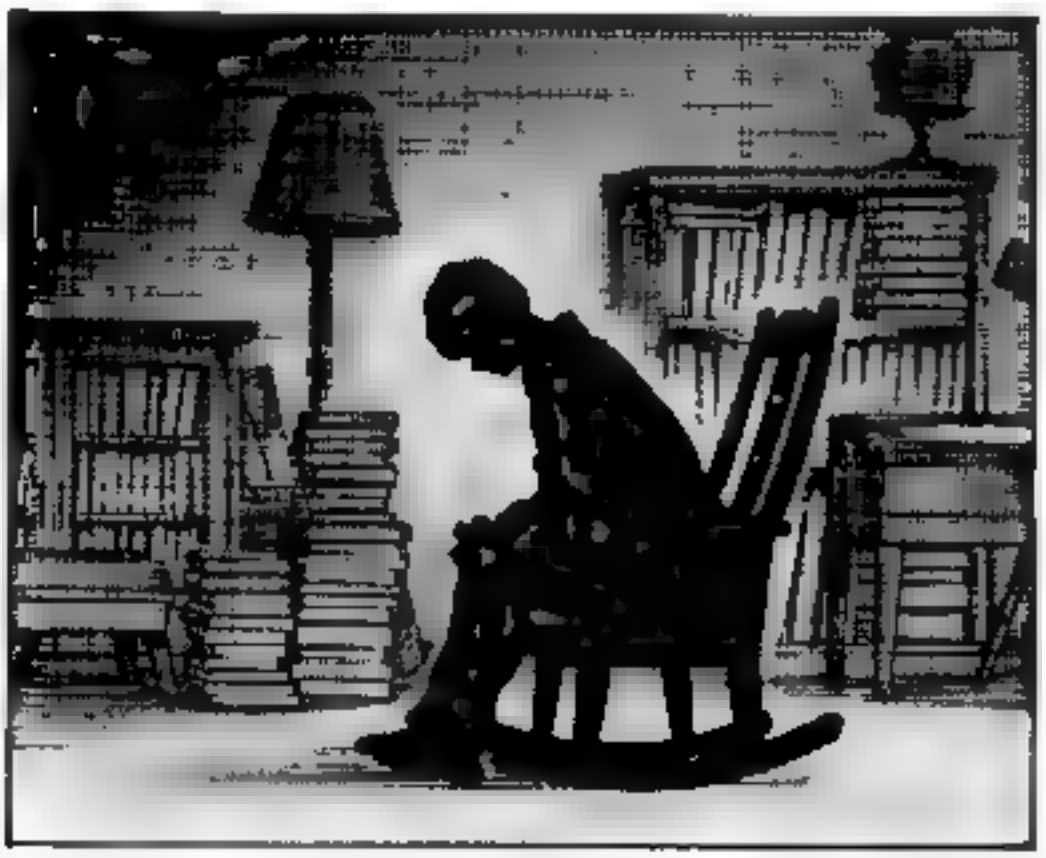




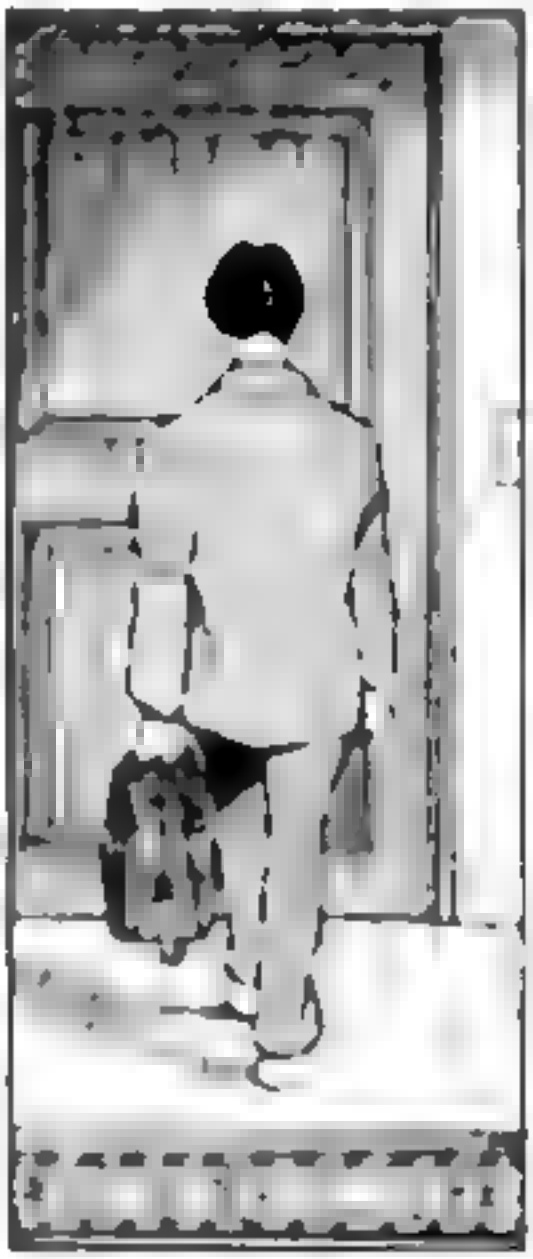


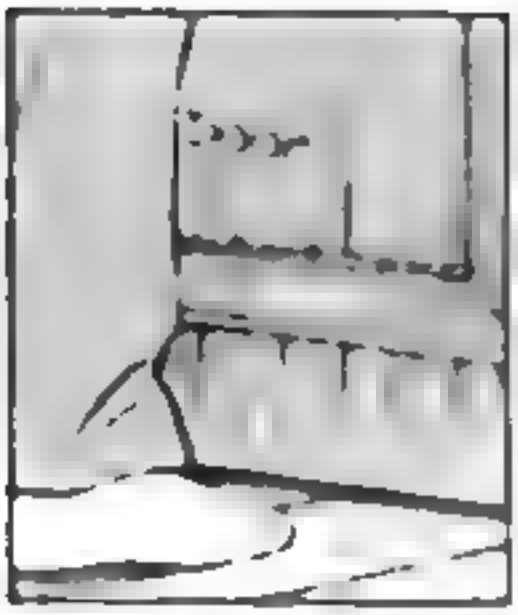

CREAK...

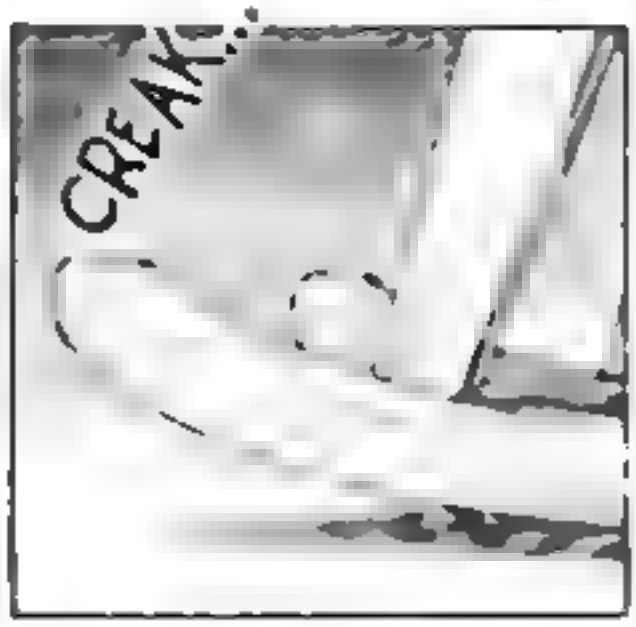
My father's room. The father who died the year I started grade school...



[illegible] a hat that transports the user to any time or place they wish, an essential part of [illegible] and [illegible] adventures.

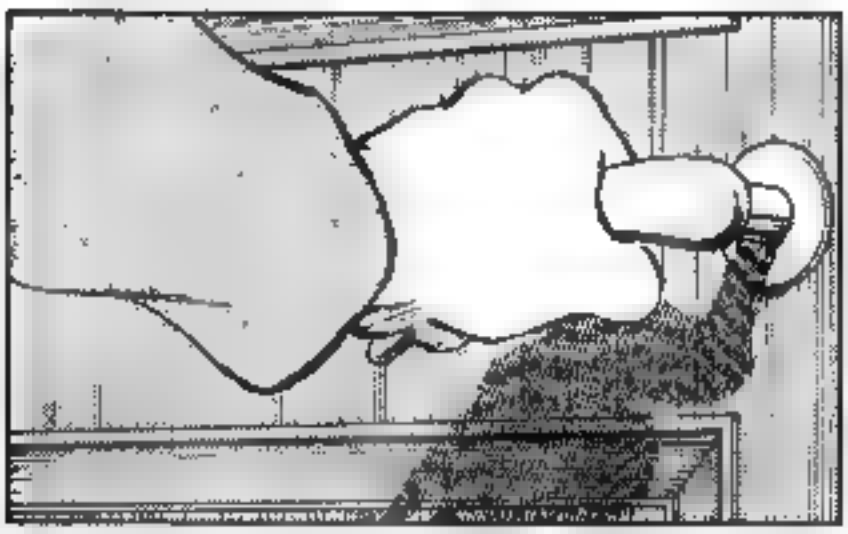


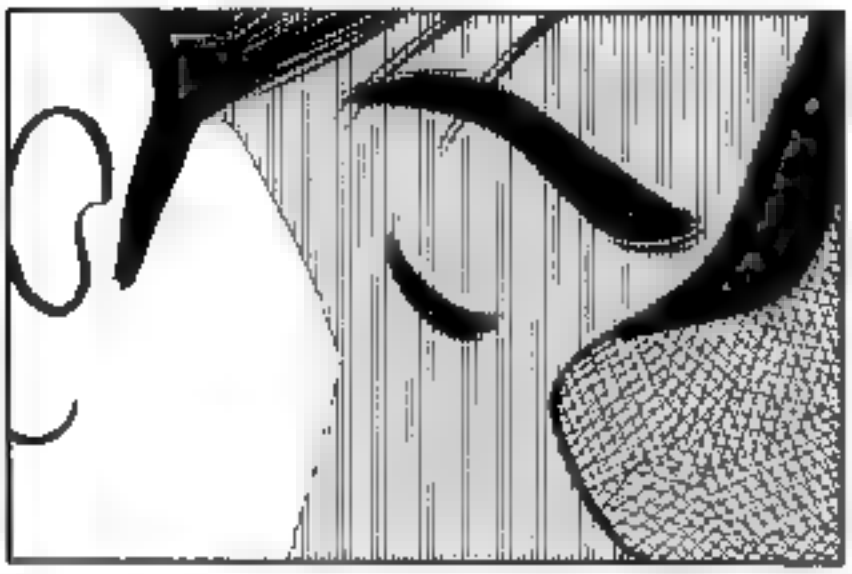




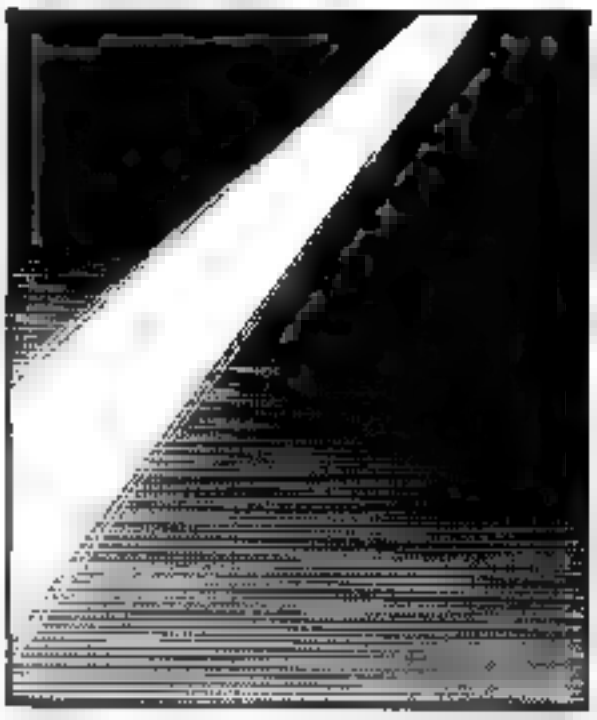
Anywhere Door

TAKE ME TO THREE DAYS AGO...





BATAM



YOU SHOULD LOCK THE DOOR BEFORE YOU GO OUT.
WHAT, WERE YOU OUT BACK?

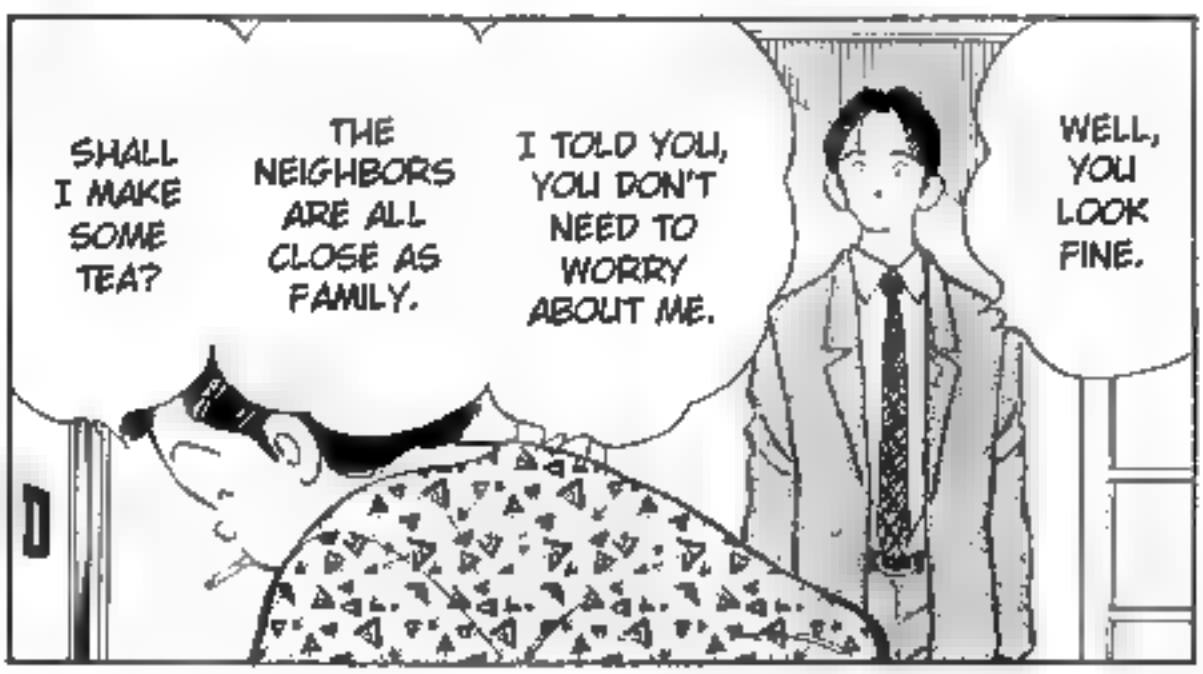
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'VE BEEN INSIDE ALL DAY...

MASAHIKO.

NOT REALLY...

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
YOU NEVER CALLED TO LET ME KNOW.
BUT WHAT'S WITH YOU?

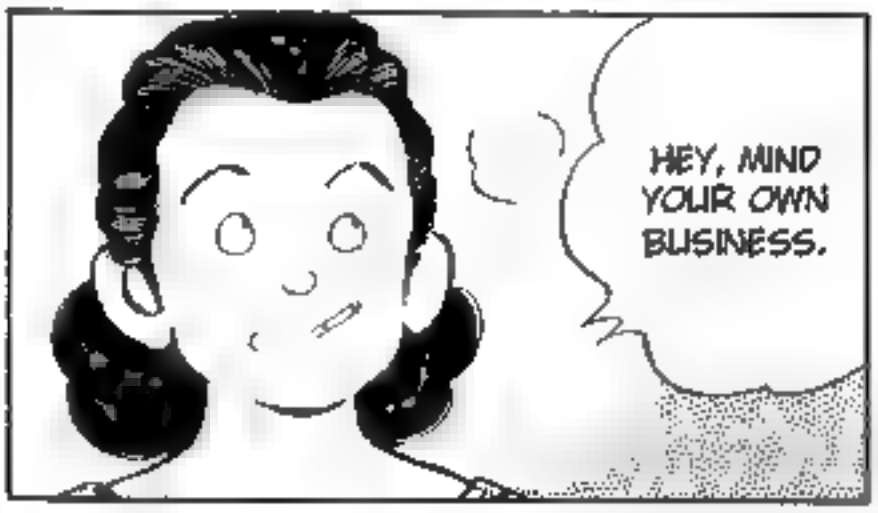
NO NEED. I'M JUST ON MY WAY.


SHALL I MAKE SOME TEA?
THE NEIGHBORS ARE ALL CLOSE AS FAMILY.
I TOLD YOU, YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
WELL, YOU LOOK FINE.

GUESS IT WON'T HAPPEN WHILE YOU'RE STILL CLEANING DAD'S ROOM THAT WAY.

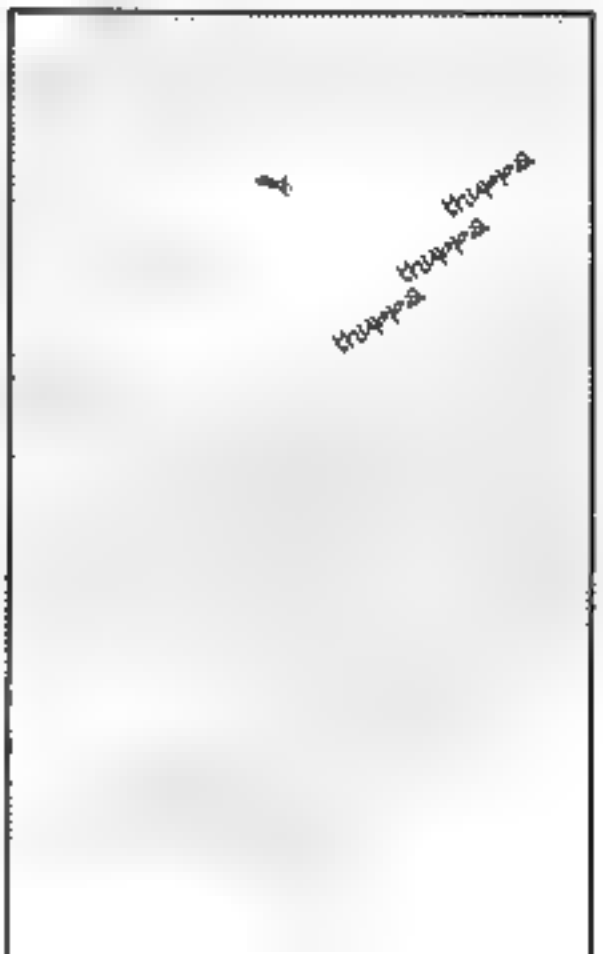
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO REMARRY-ING?

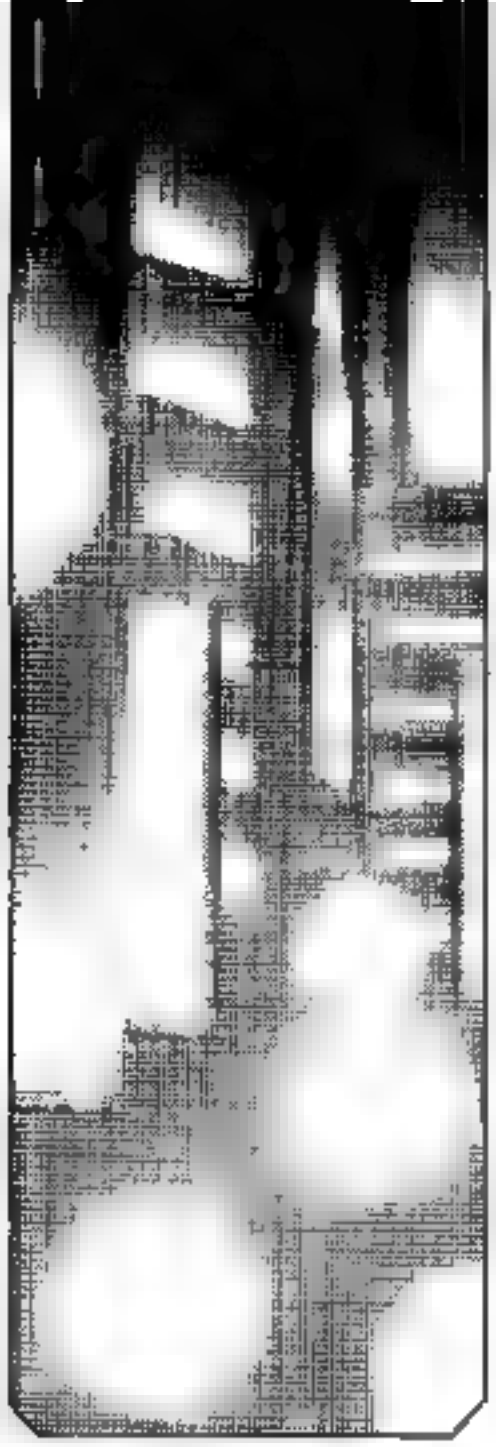
ALWAYS WAS AN ODD BOY.


HEY, MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

I'LL BE BACK.

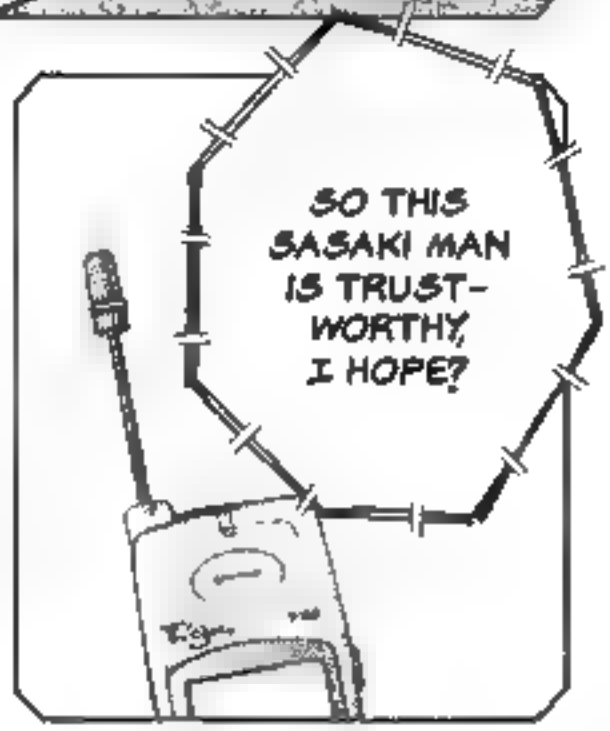
...Three days ago.


thuppa
thuppa
thuppa



HUH?

OH, ABSO-LUTELY.


SO THIS SASAKI MAN IS TRUST-WORTHY, I HOPE?

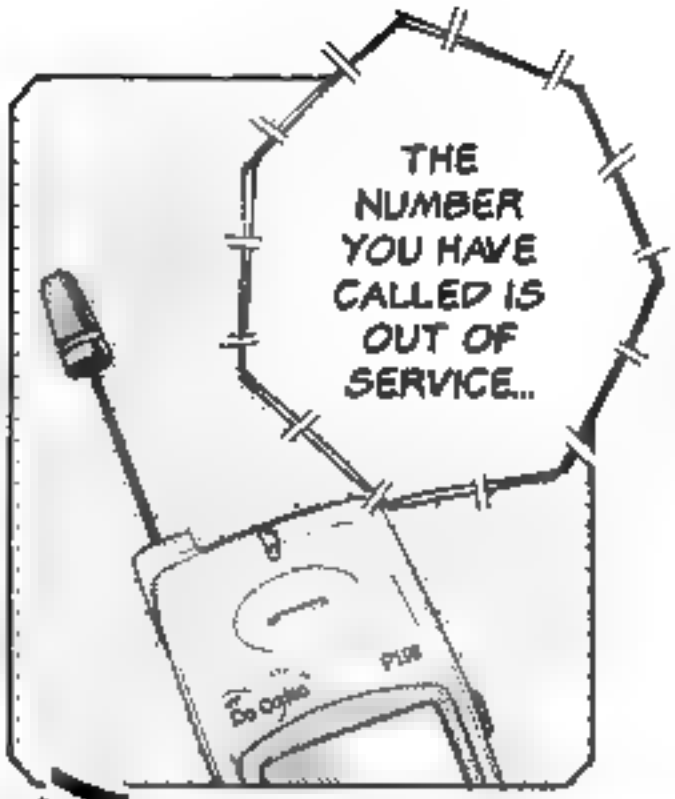
RECEPTION

So the man intro-duced himself...

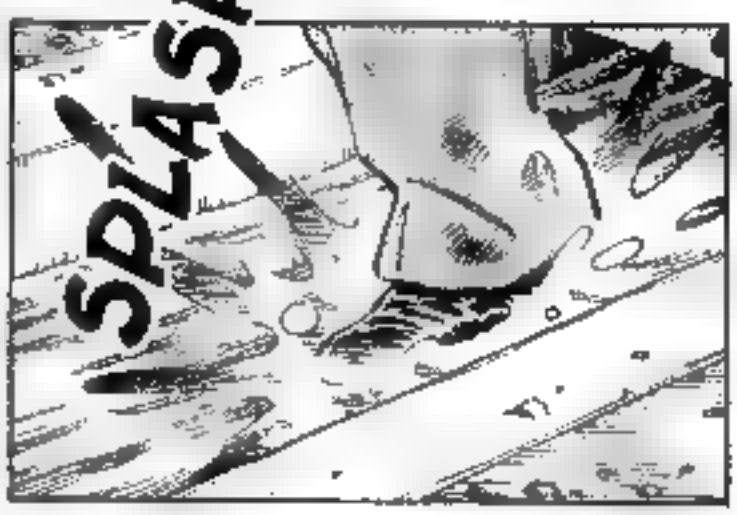
OHTE
SECURITIES

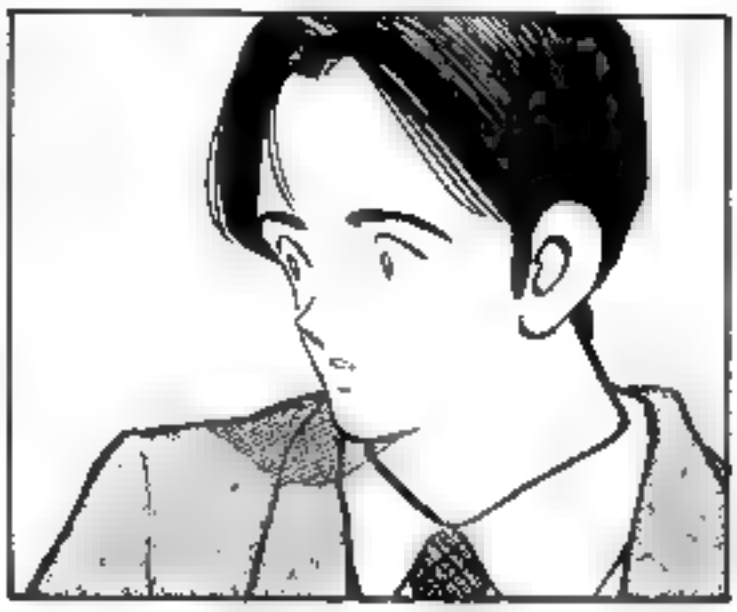
Shiro Sasaki... an employee for Ohte Securities.

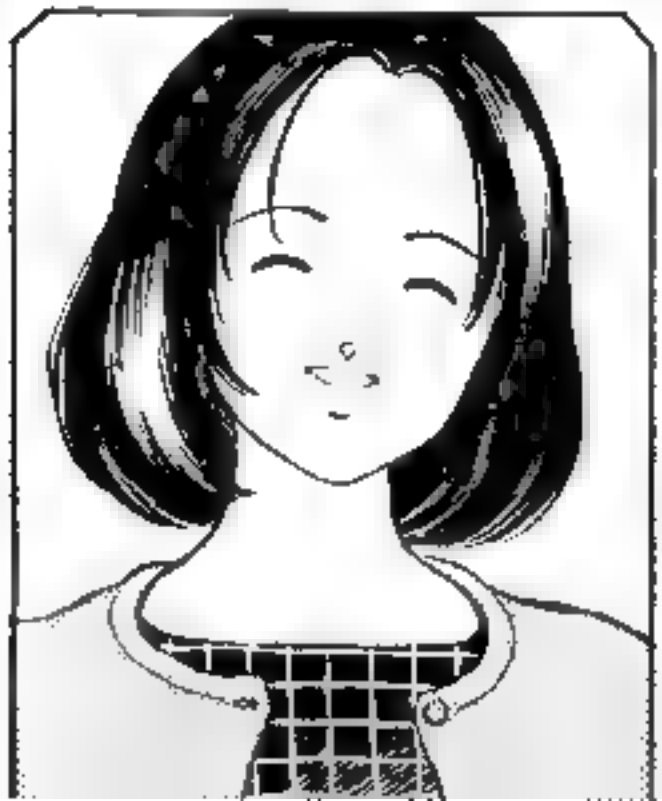
IF YOU SEE THESE PEOPLE
CON-MAN
SANPEI HIRANUMA (41)


THE NUMBER YOU HAVE CALLED IS OUT OF SERVICE...

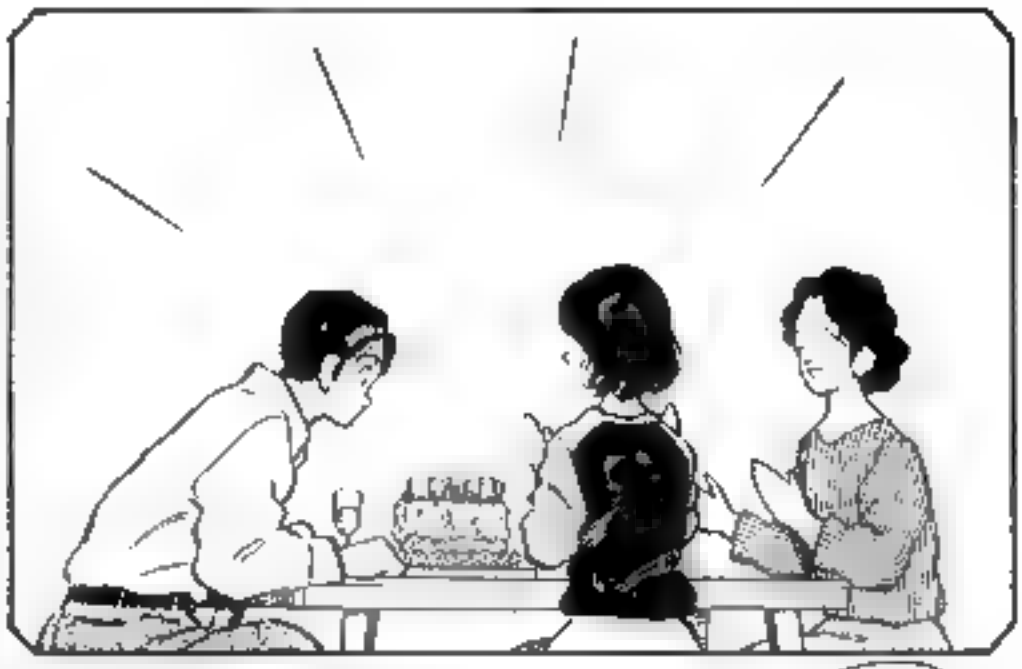
That mother and daughter will discover the truth tomorrow.
That they were deceived by his smiling face and my glowing words...

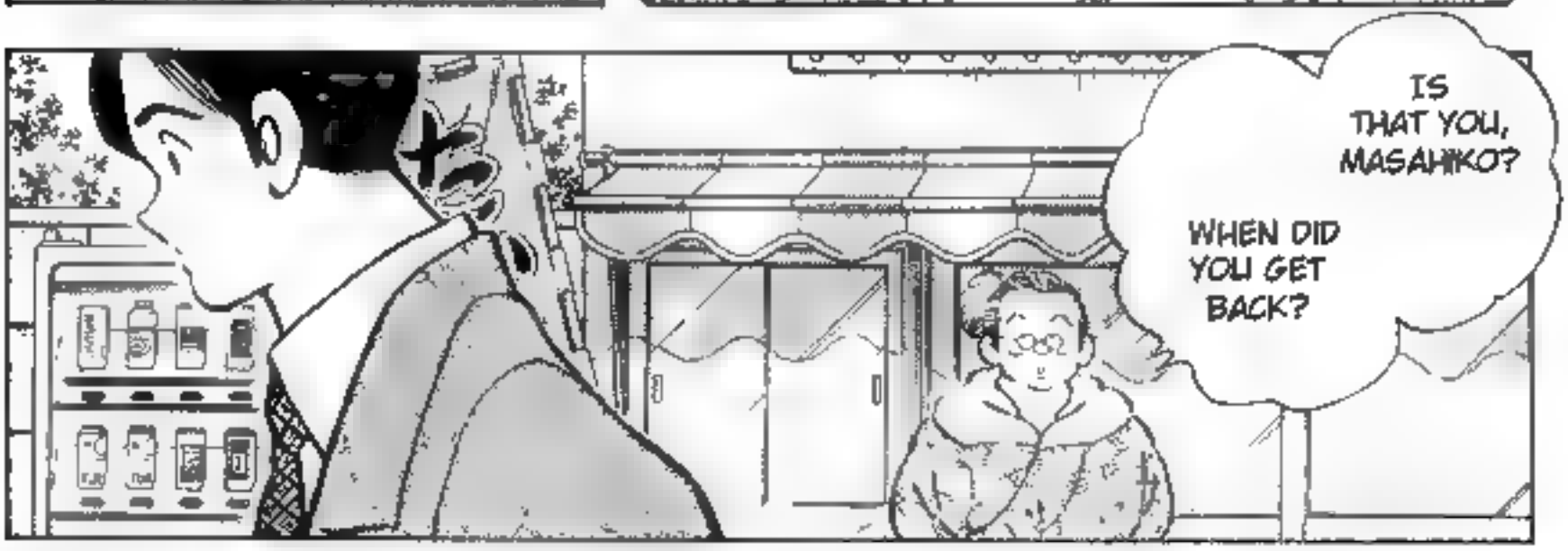

SPLASH

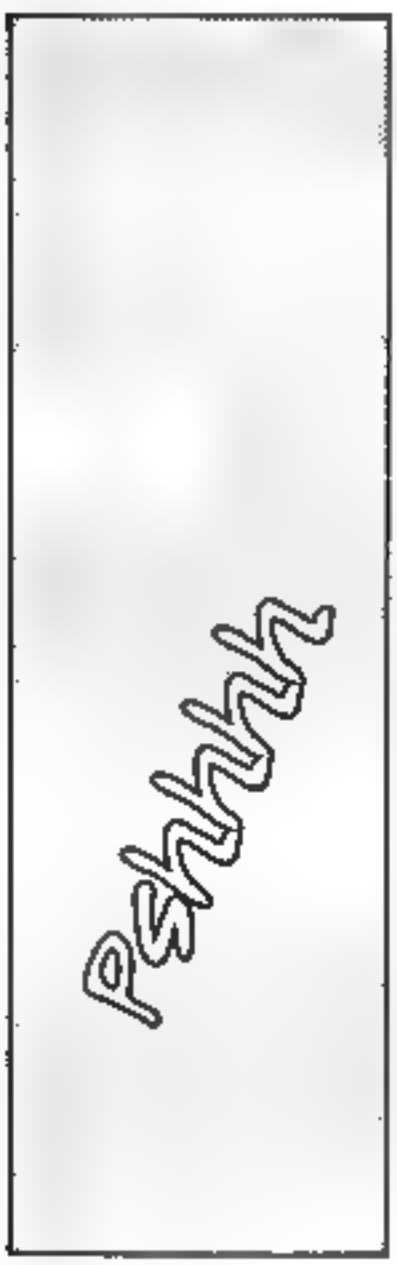


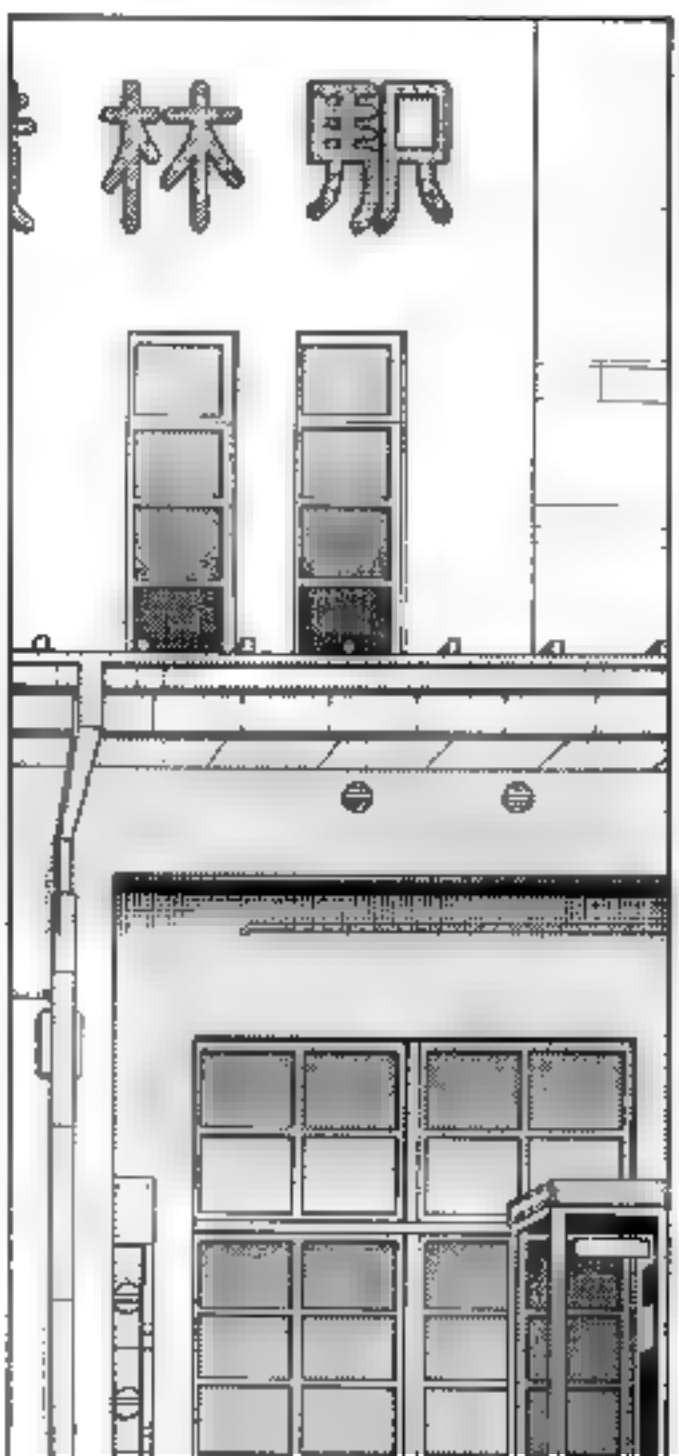


That their store is now owned by someone else...

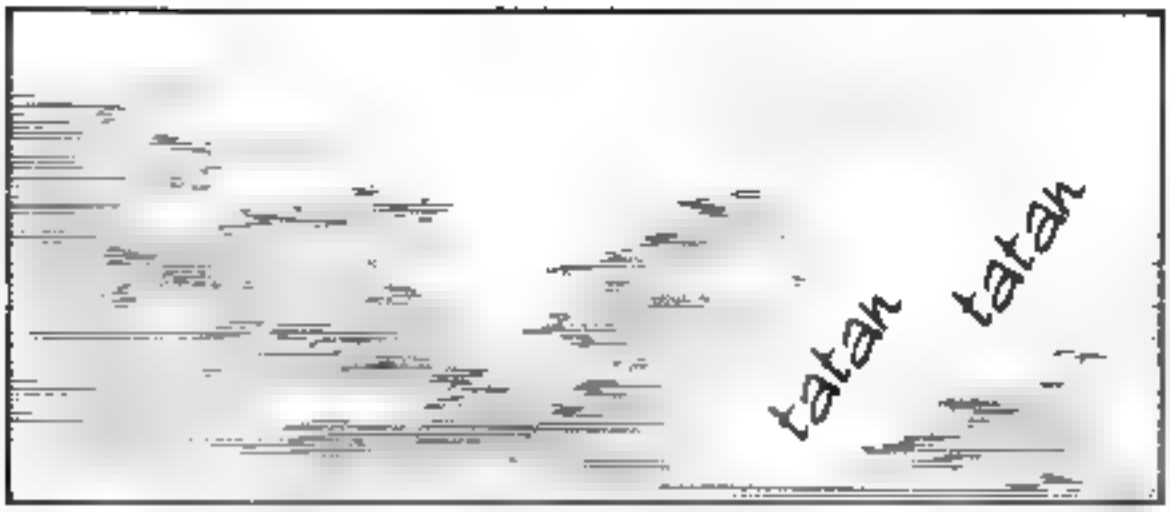



IS THAT YOU, MASAHIKO?
WHEN DID YOU GET BACK?


Pshhh


林 駅

POOR OLD THING'S FINALLY LOST HER MARBLES...

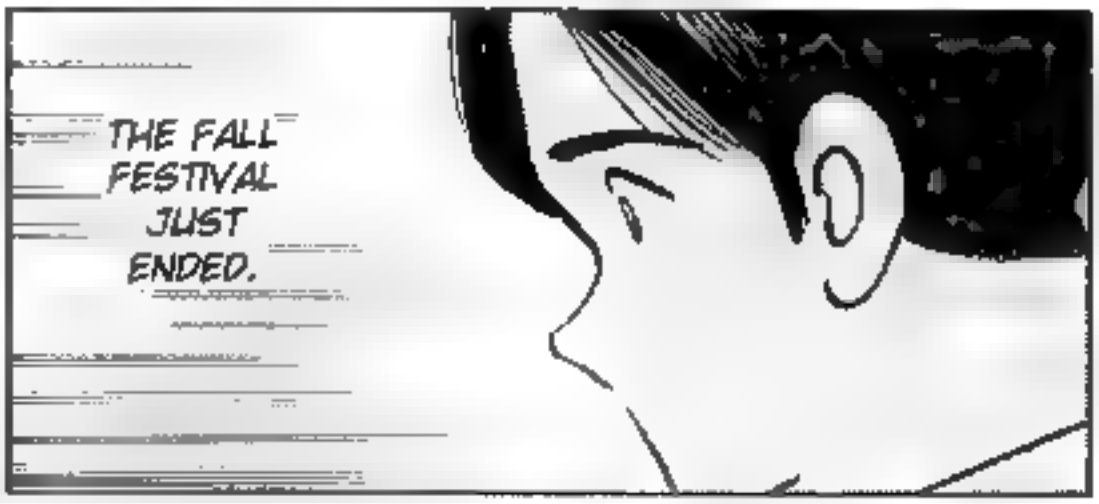

tatah
tatah

Tomorrow is our first date. A date that took an entire year to ask her out on...

don
don
don
pishala
pishala

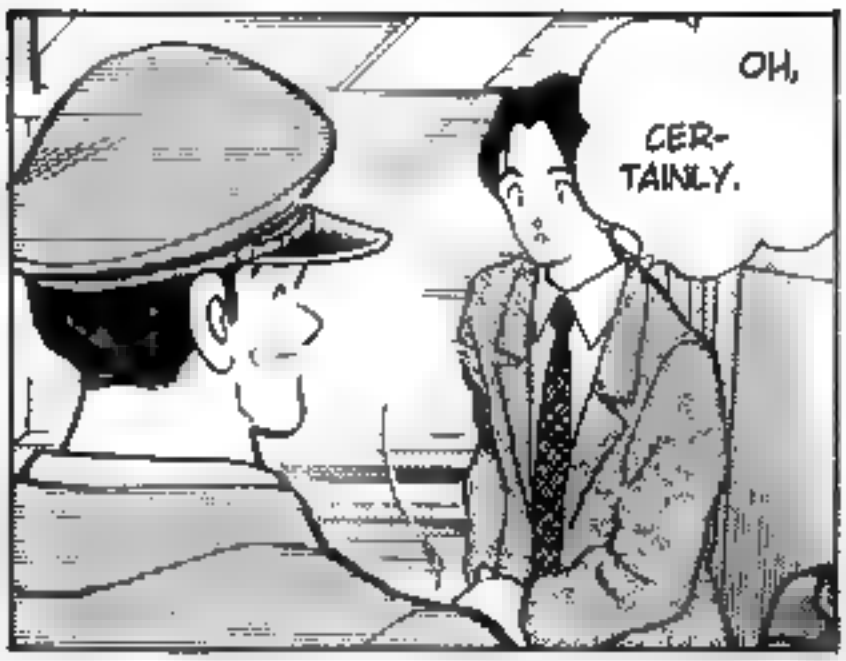
GATTAN

I'LL NEED TO SEE YOUR BOARDING TICKET.


THE FALL FESTIVAL JUST ENDED.

tatah
tatah

HUH?


OH,
CER-
TAINLY.

SOME-
THING
WRONG?

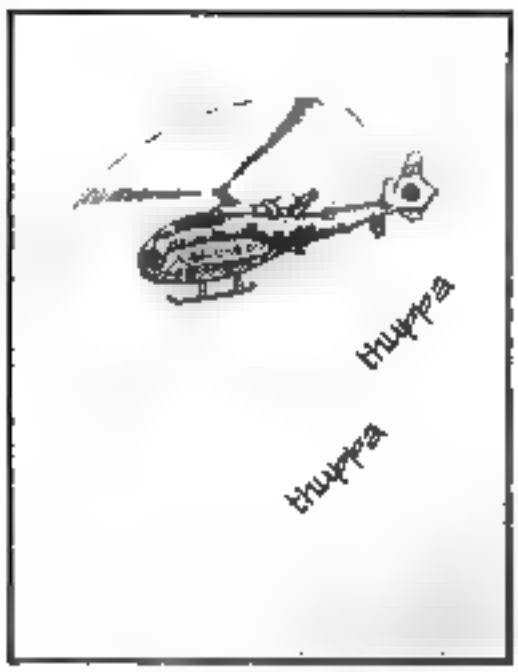
YES.
VERY
GOOD.
OCTOBER
2ND...

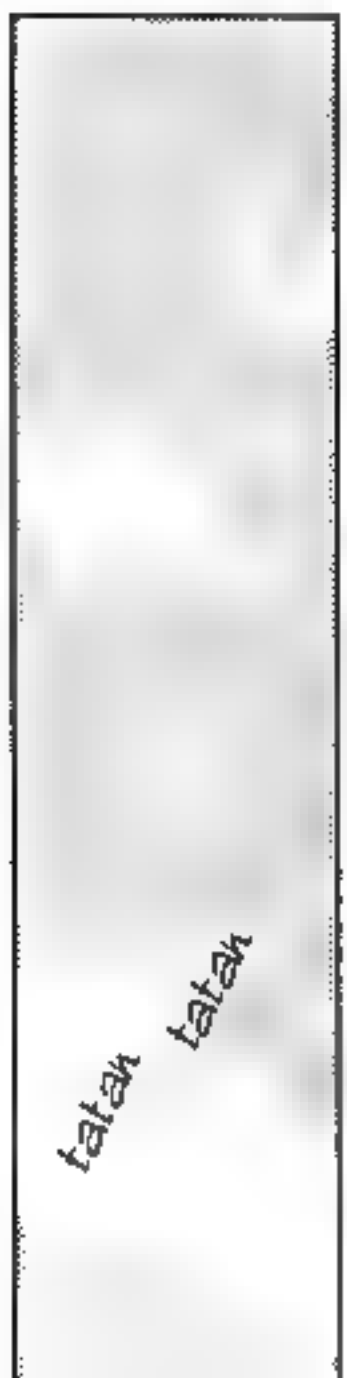
HUH?

HELLO?
UH,
YES?

DON'T LET HIM FOOL YOU!
HE'S ACTUALLY A CON-MAN!
N-NO, HE'S NOT!
SO THIS SASAKI MAN IS TRUSTWORTHY, I HOPE?
THWUMP
YES, HE REALLY PULLED THE WOOL OVER MY EYES, TOO!
BUT YOU DID SAY HE WAS YOUR FRIEND...
I THOUGHT THE WHOLE THING SEEMED TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.
...I KNEW IT.
UNDER-STAND?!
MAKE SURE YOU DO.
I'LL DO THAT...
HE'S A WELL-KNOWN CON-MAN! THE AUTHORITIES ARE AFTER HIM!
CALL THE POLICE BEFORE HE CAN SHOW UP.
TATAN TATAN

OH, GOOD.
I'M GLAD YOU WEREN'T THE CON-MAN.
WHAT IS IT?!
ERR...
OH,
OF COURSE.
Y-YES, YES.
HUH?
ABOUT THE EVENT ON SUNDAY...
ARE WE STILL GOOD FOR THAT?
ARE YOU OUT OF TOWN RIGHT NOW?
I'LL STOP BY AS SOON AS I'M BACK IN TOKYO.



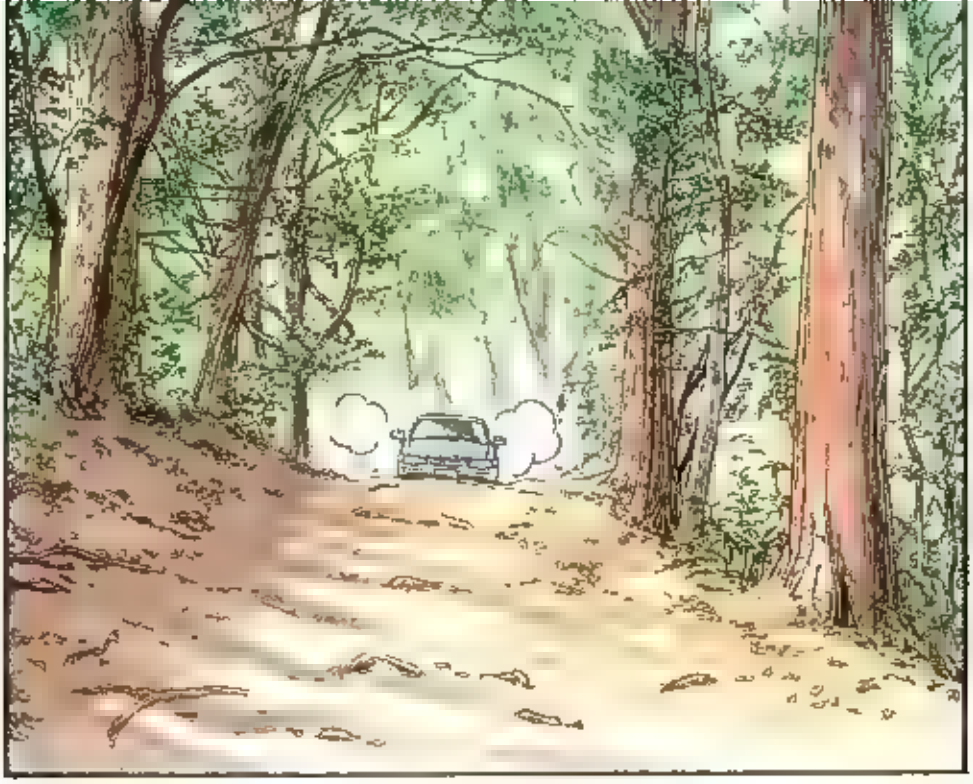


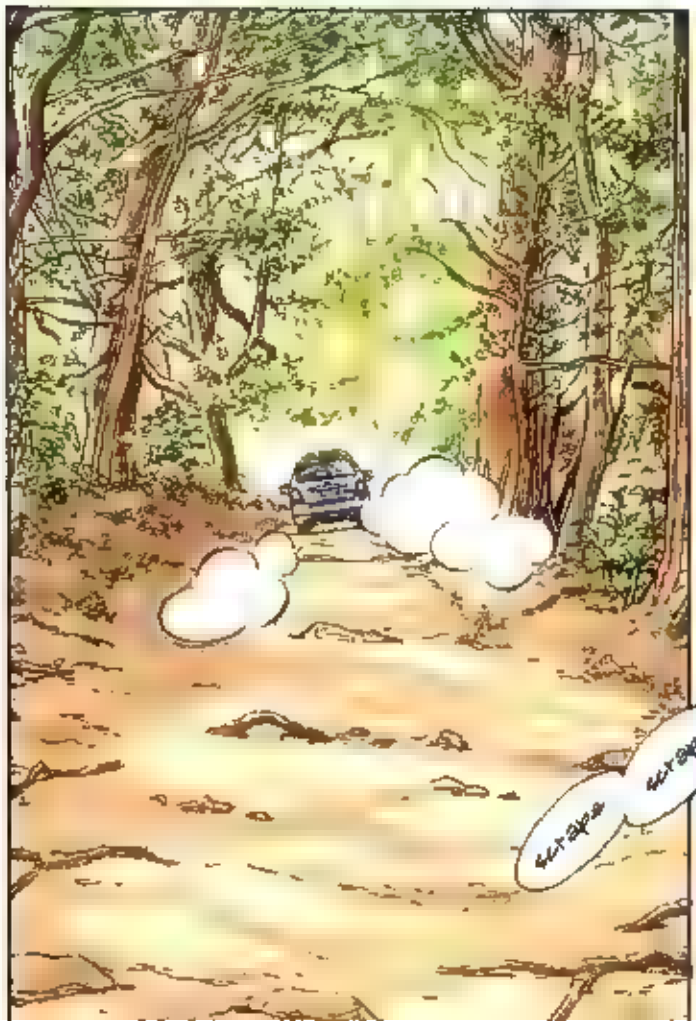
* Doraemon appeared in this story with the kind consent of Fujiko Pro.

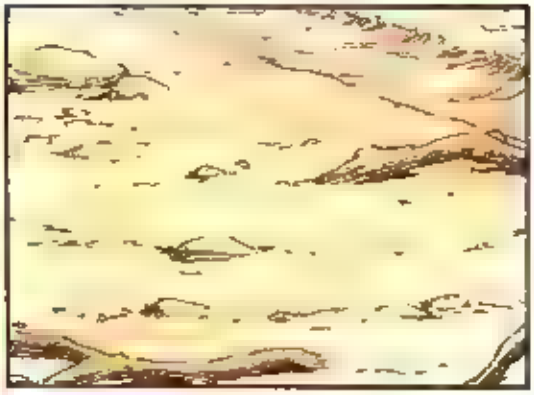
- Chapter 1 End -

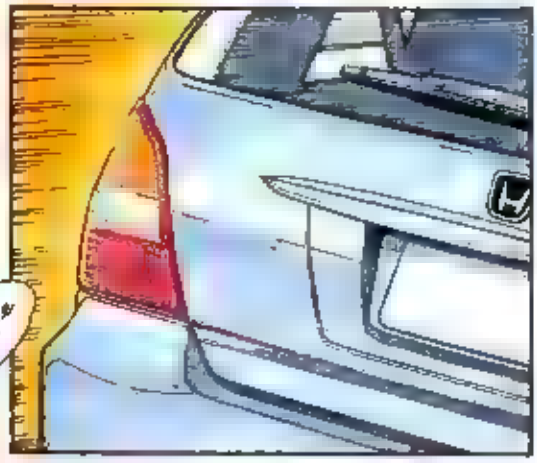
CHAPTER 2

LOST









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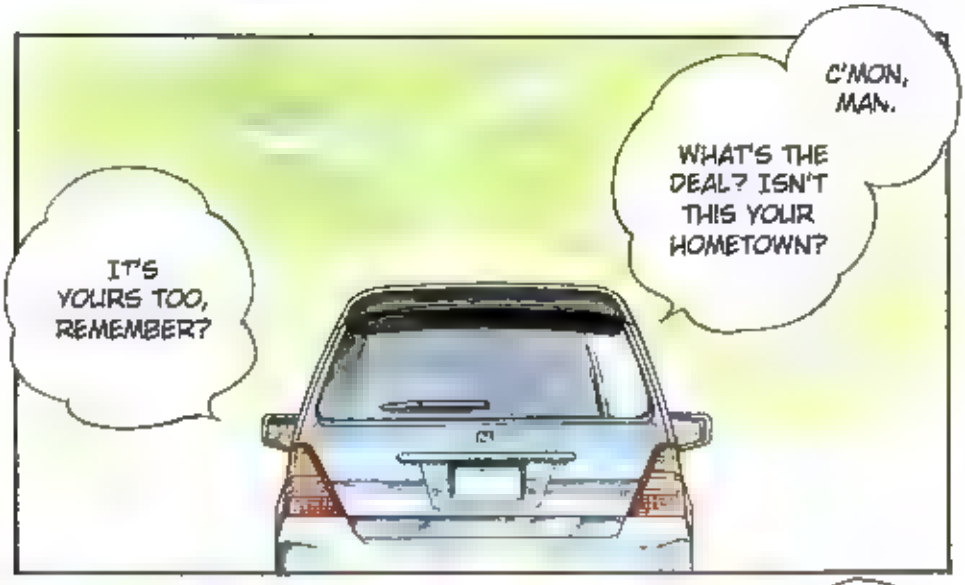
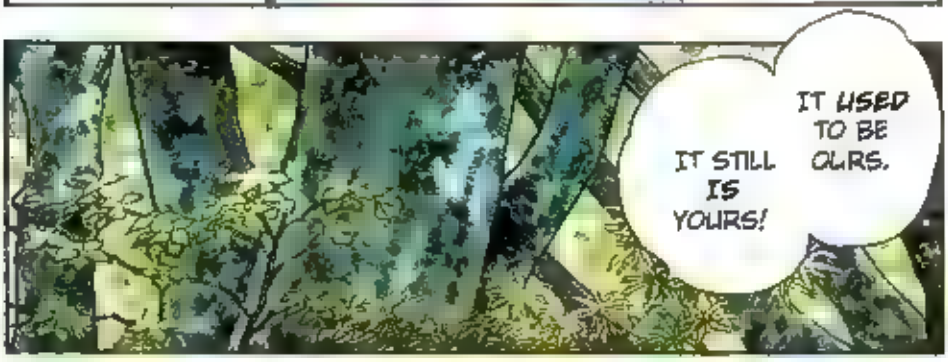
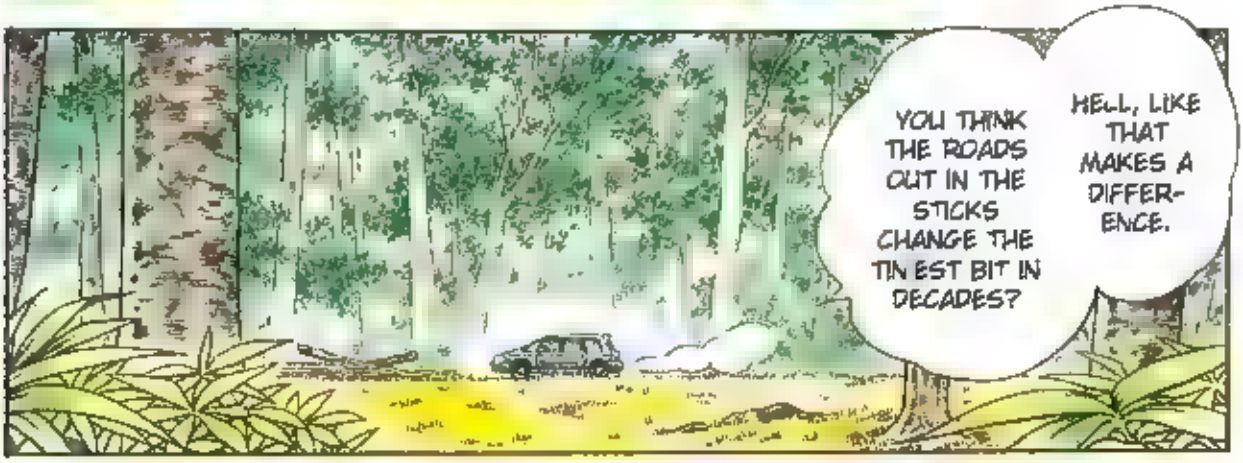
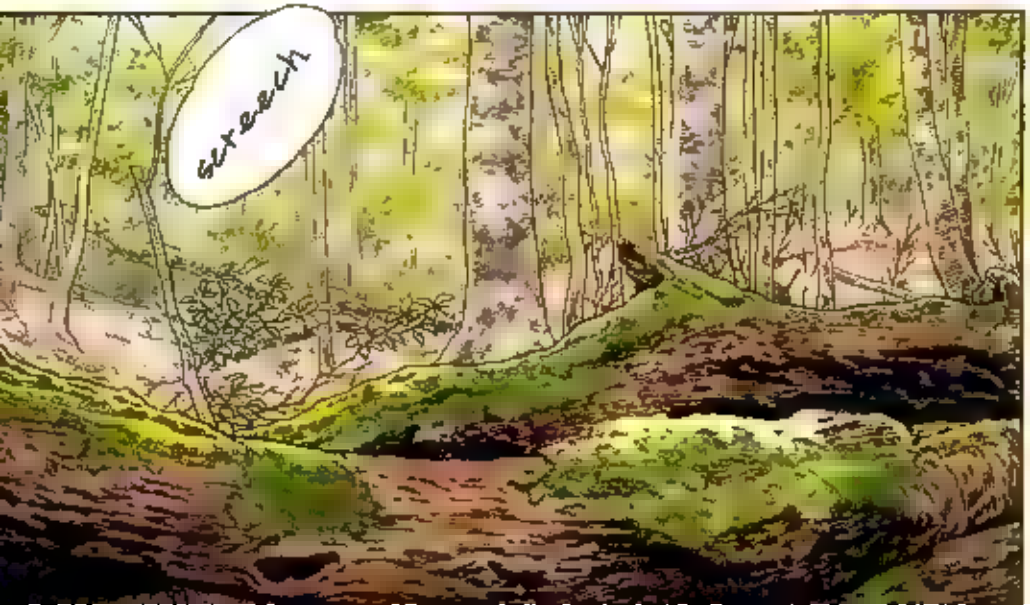
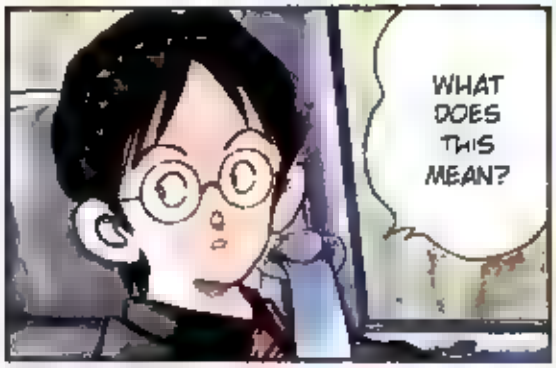


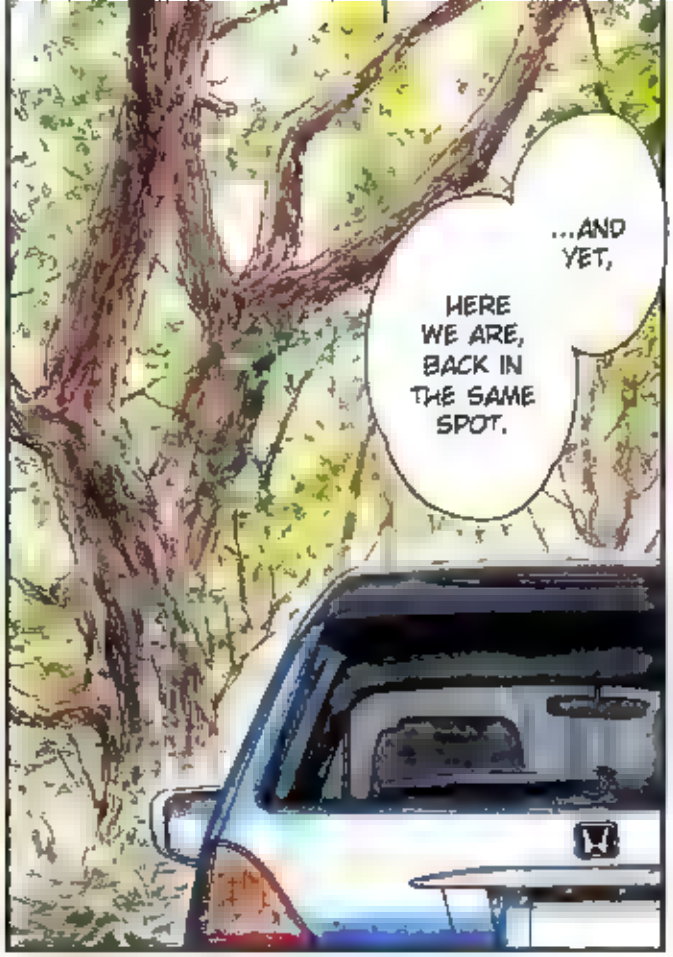






...

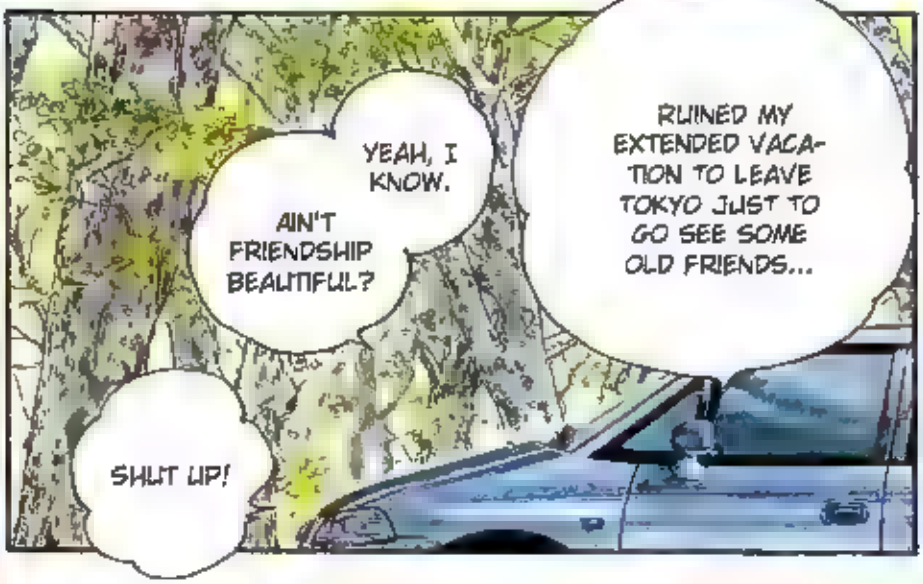

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?


...AND YET,
HERE WE ARE, BACK IN THE SAME SPOT.

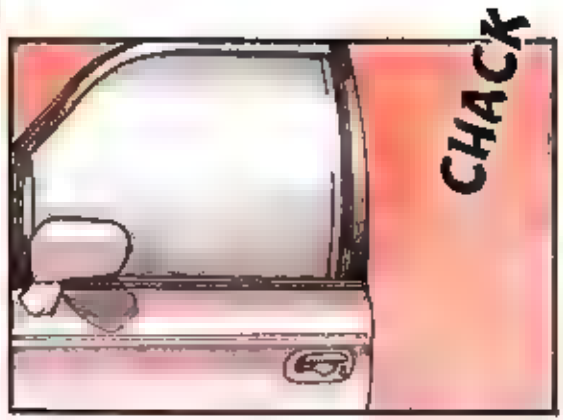
CAUSE IT SURE WASN'T ME WHO SAID WE'D ALL SHOW UP TOGETHER.
HEY DICKWAD, THIS WAS YOUR FAULT IN THE FIRST PLACE!

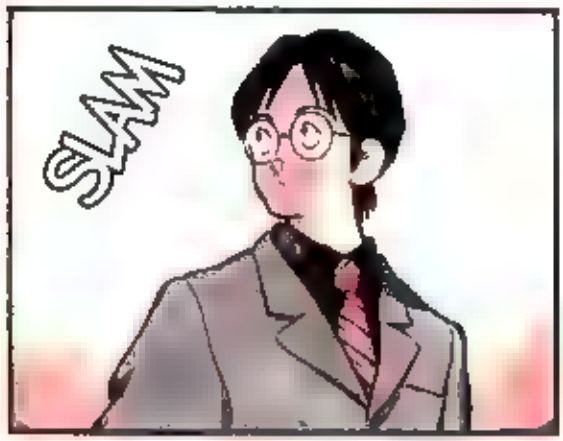
MAYBE IT MEANS WE SHOULDN'T BE COMING BACK AFTER ALL?

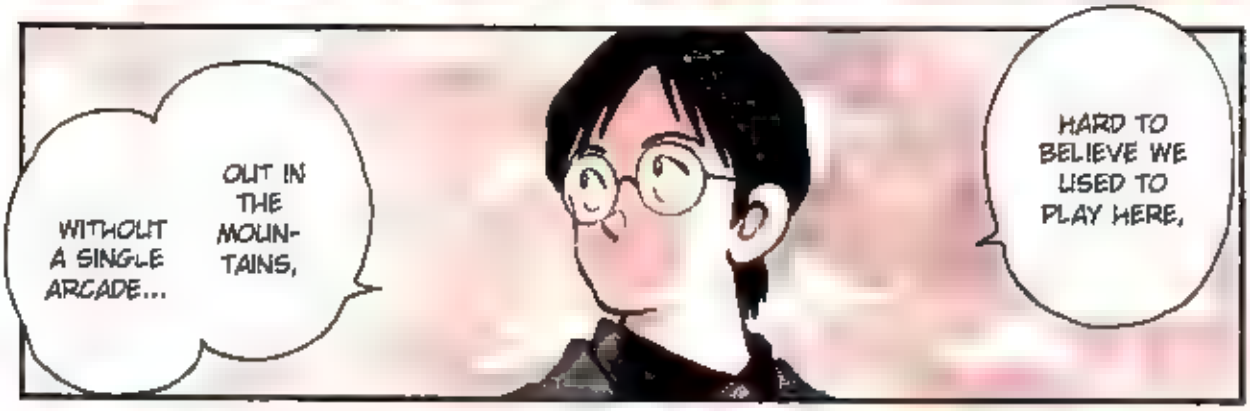
OLD FRIENDS...


RUINED MY EXTENDED VACATION TO LEAVE TOKYO JUST TO GO SEE SOME OLD FRIENDS...
YEAH, I KNOW.
AIN'T FRIENDSHIP BEAUTIFUL?
SHUT UP!

twit
twit


CHACK

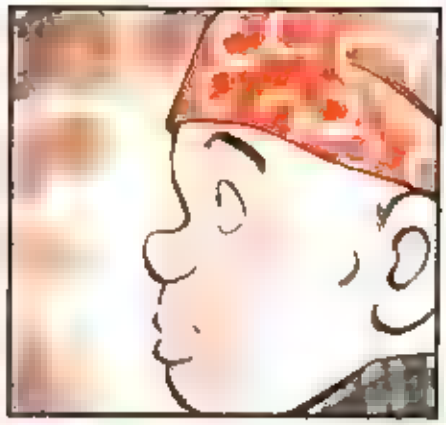

SLAM

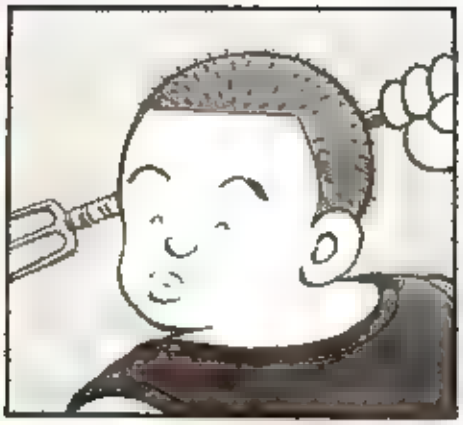

WITHOUT A SINGLE ARCADE...
OUT IN THE MOUN-TAINS,
HARD TO BELIEVE WE USED TO PLAY HERE,

THE FIVE OF US, ALWAYS TOGETHER.

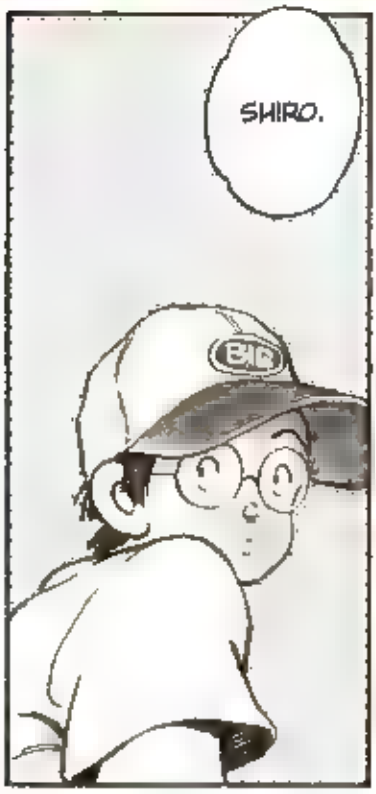
A

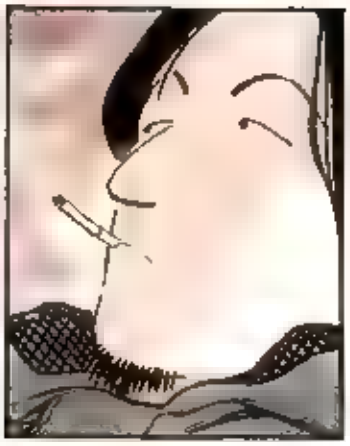
YEAH.

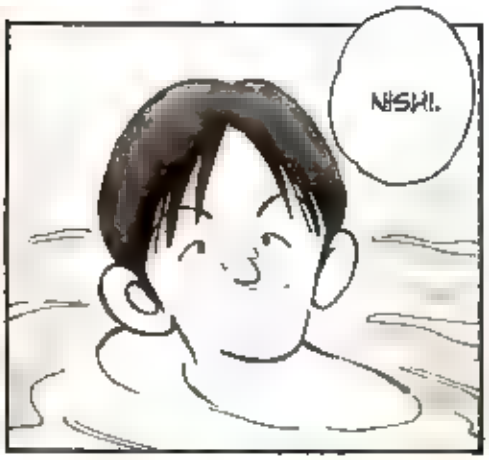




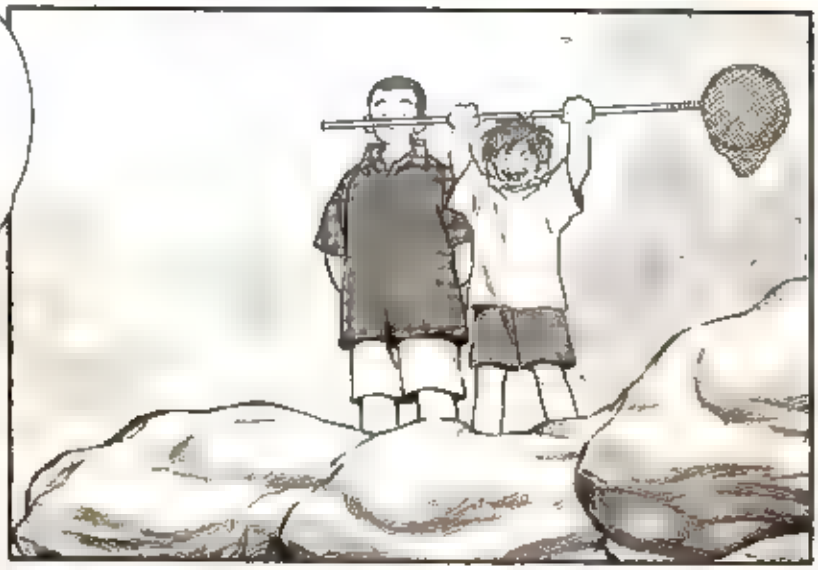
ICHI.


SHIRO.

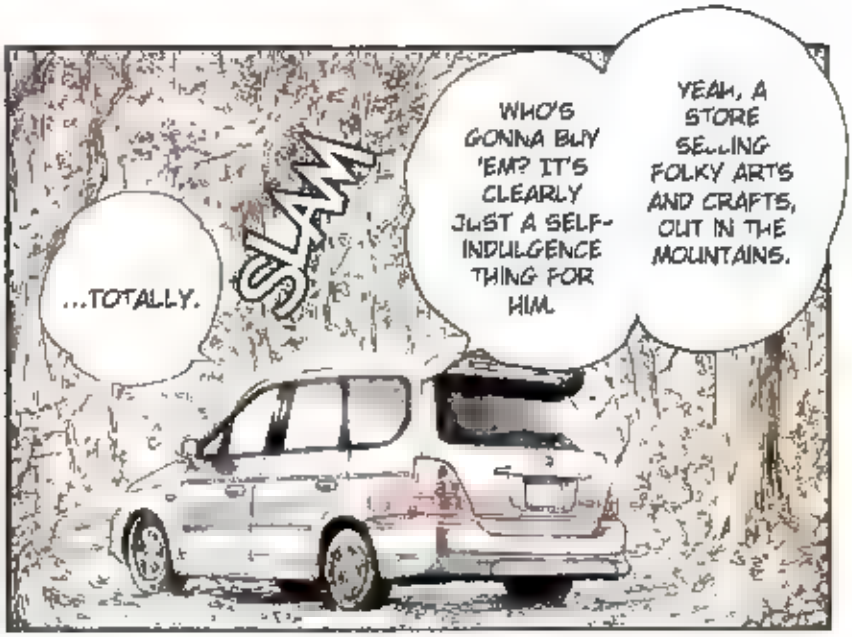



NISHI.

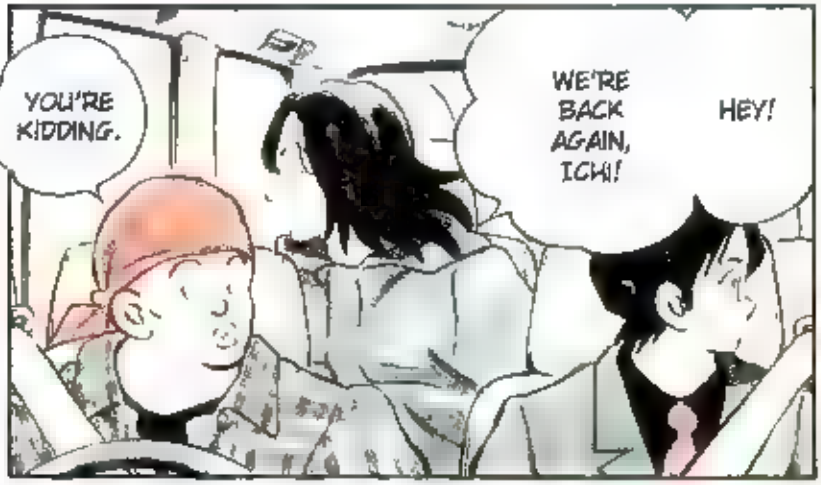
AND NOW DAIGO'S OPENING HIS OWN BUSINESS...

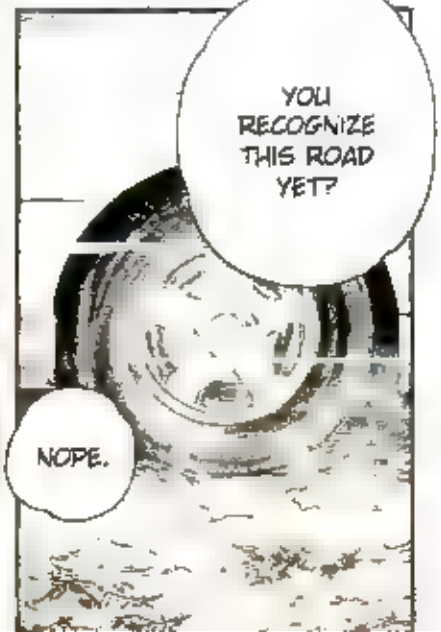


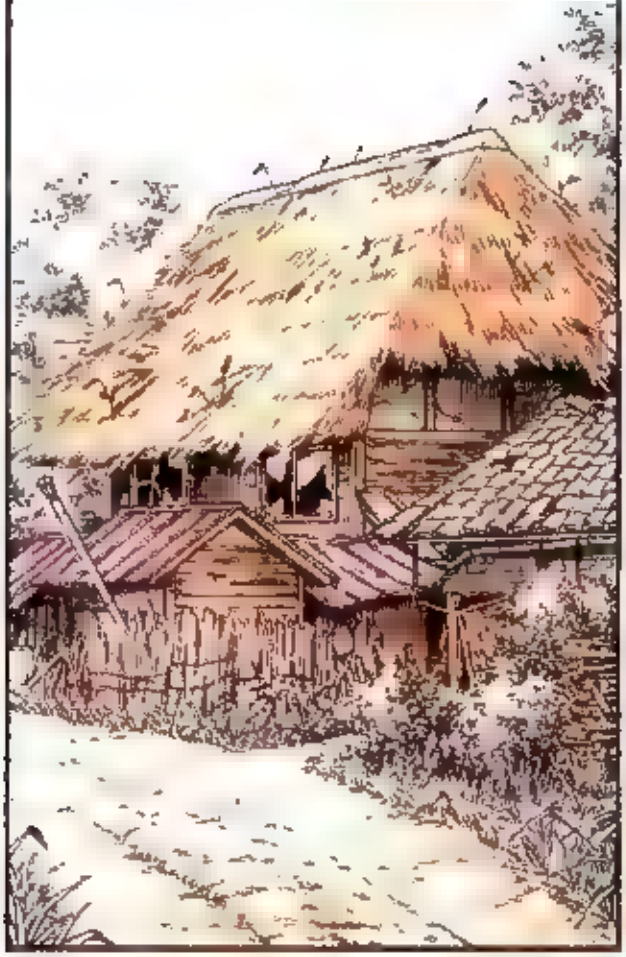
SCRAPE
SCRAPE


...TOTALLY.
SLAM
WHO'S GONNA BUY 'EM? IT'S CLEARLY JUST A SELF-INDULGENCE THING FOR HIM.
YEAH, A STORE SELLING FOLKY ARTS AND CRAFTS, OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS.

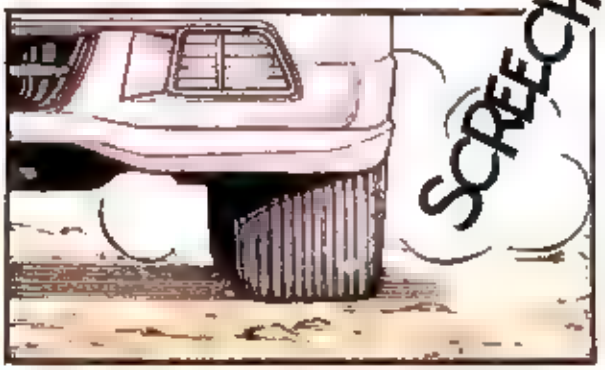
VRMMM

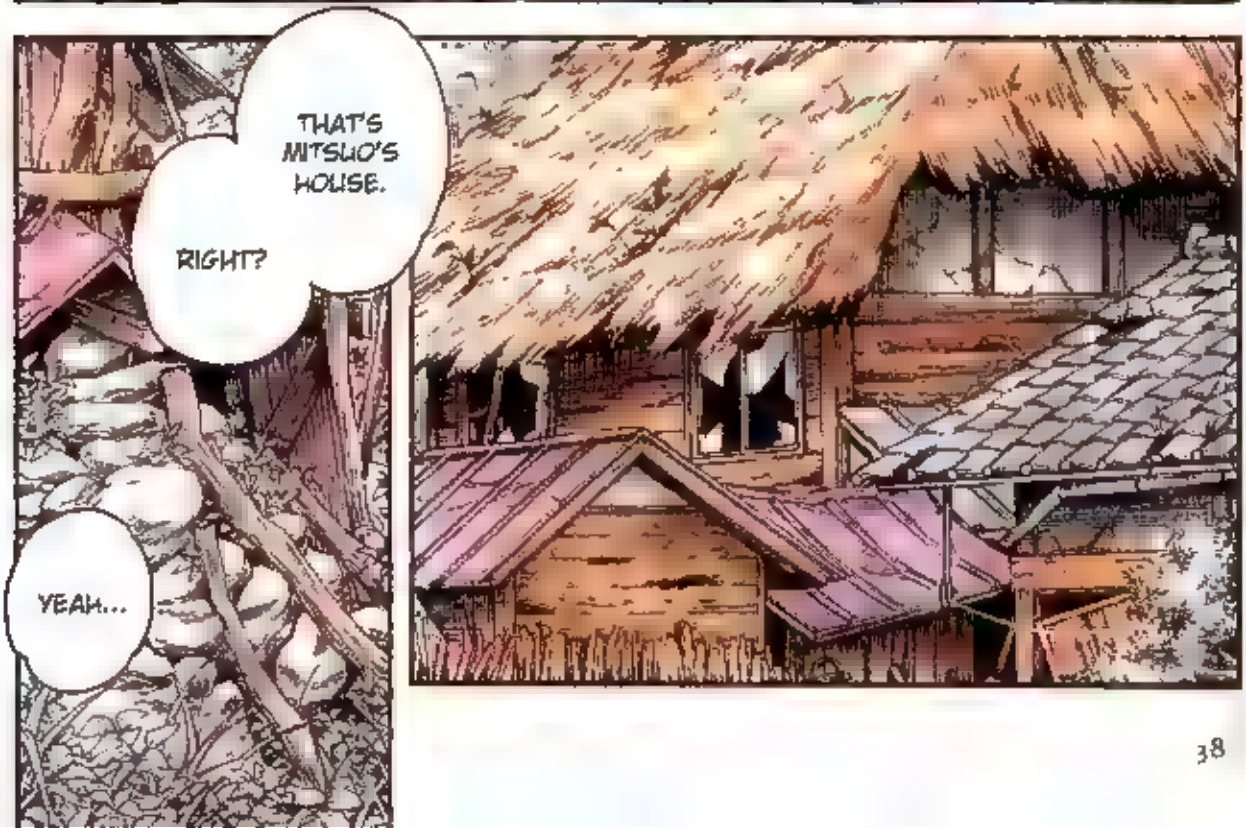

YOU'RE KIDDING.
WE'RE BACK AGAIN, ICHI!
HEY!


YOU RECOGNIZE THIS ROAD YET?
NOPE.



NO, YOU'RE NOT.


SCREECH


THAT'S MITSUO'S HOUSE.
RIGHT?
YEAH...

'BOUT FIVE YEARS AGO, WHEN HIS MOM WENT TO LIVE IN SAITAMA WITH HIS SISTER AFTER SHE GOT MARRIED... I THINK.

WHEN DID IT GO EMPTY LIKE THAT?

BRMM...

Y, YEAH.

...

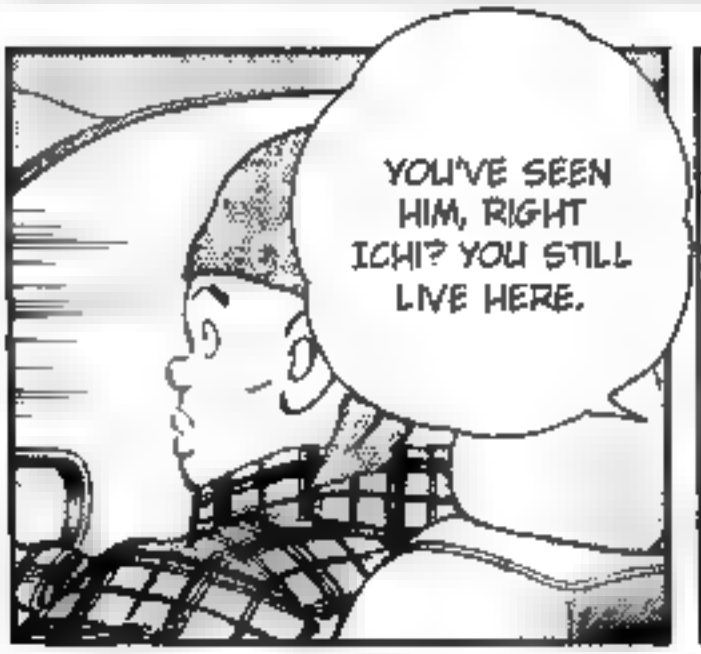
LET'S HEAD BACK. NOW.

HOW MANY YEARS?

BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE I CAME OUT TO TOKYO...
I ALWAYS EXCHANGED NEW YEAR'S CARDS WITH HIM EVERY YEAR.

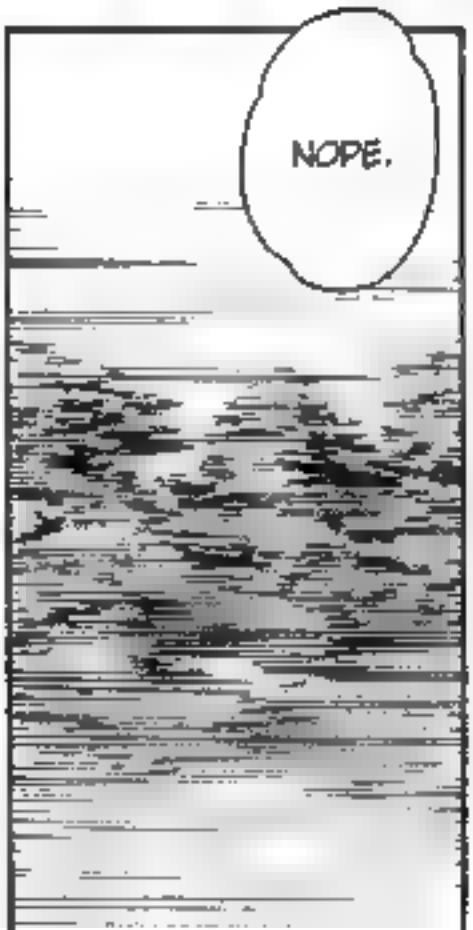
SINCE WE SAW DAIGO?
NO IDEA.
SCRAPE
SCRAPE

I DON'T THINK I EVER SAW HIM IN MY HIGH SCHOOL YEARS.
...ACTUALLY.


YOU'VE SEEN HIM, RIGHT ICHI? YOU STILL LIVE HERE.

WELL,
WE DID GO TO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS.
NEITHER DID I.

WHY DON'T YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM?
WELL, YOU GUYS STILL COME BACK EVERY YEAR FOR OBON AND NEW YEAR'S DAY.
SERIOUS?
WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THAT OLD-SCHOOL FRIENDSHIP TALK?


NOPE.

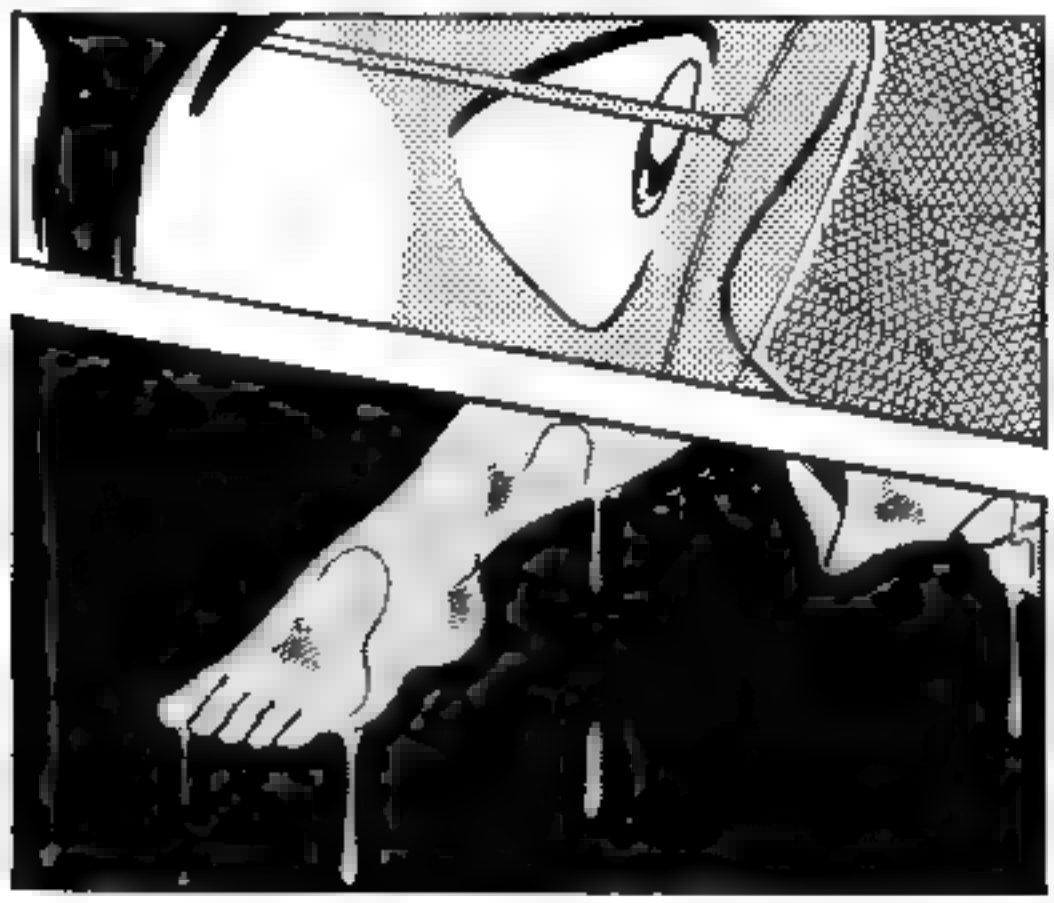
YEAH.

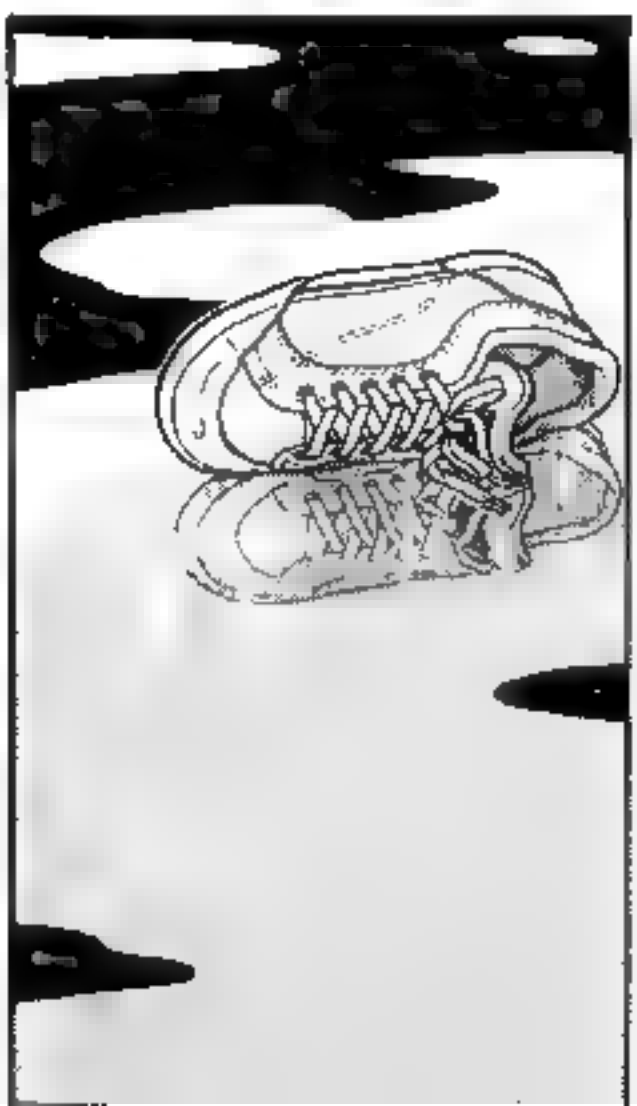
VRMMMM

RIGHT?
NO REAL REASON, I GUESS.

WHY DON'T I...?

THE YEARS CAN PASS, BUT A CHILDHOOD FRIEND IS ALWAYS A CHILDHOOD FRIEND.





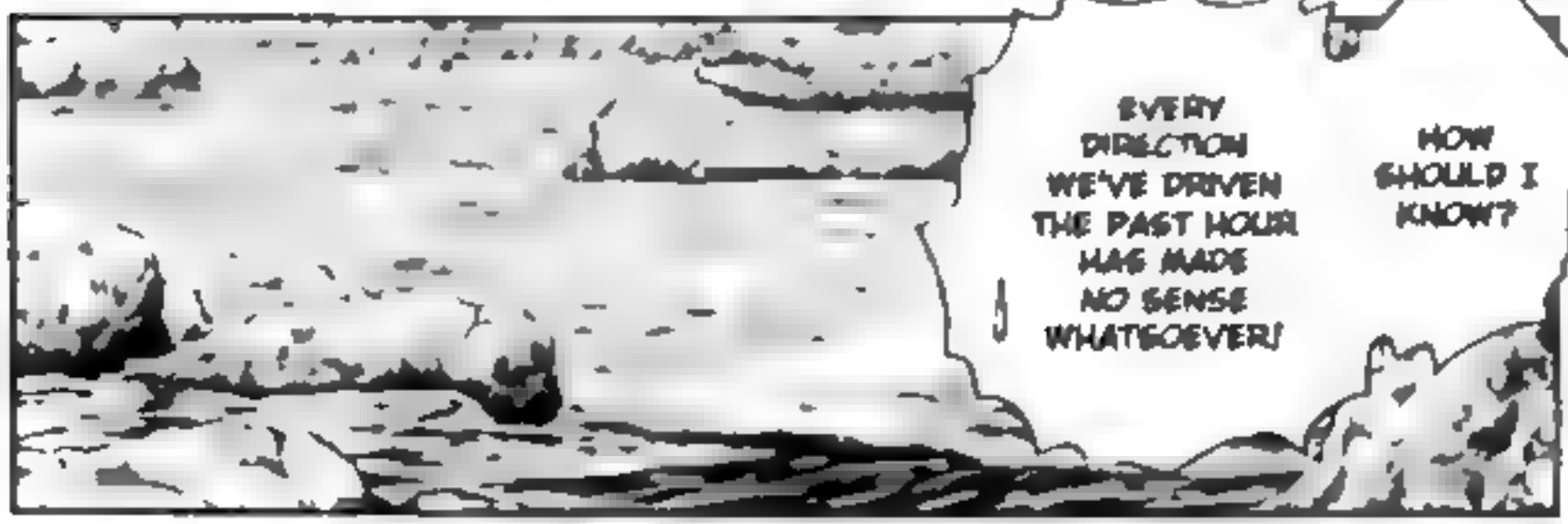
WHOA!
SCREECH
WH-
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!

YEAH.

IS THAT SNAKE RIVER?

WHAT'S THE SNAKE RIVER DOING HERE?!
HOW CAN THAT BE?!

shhhh


EVERY DIRECTION WE'VE DRIVEN THE PAST HOUR HAS MADE NO SENSE WHATSOEVER!
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?

THIS IS IT

C'MON, LET'S GET GOING!

THE SPOT THEY FOUND MITSUO...

JUST PAST NOON...
WHAT TIME?

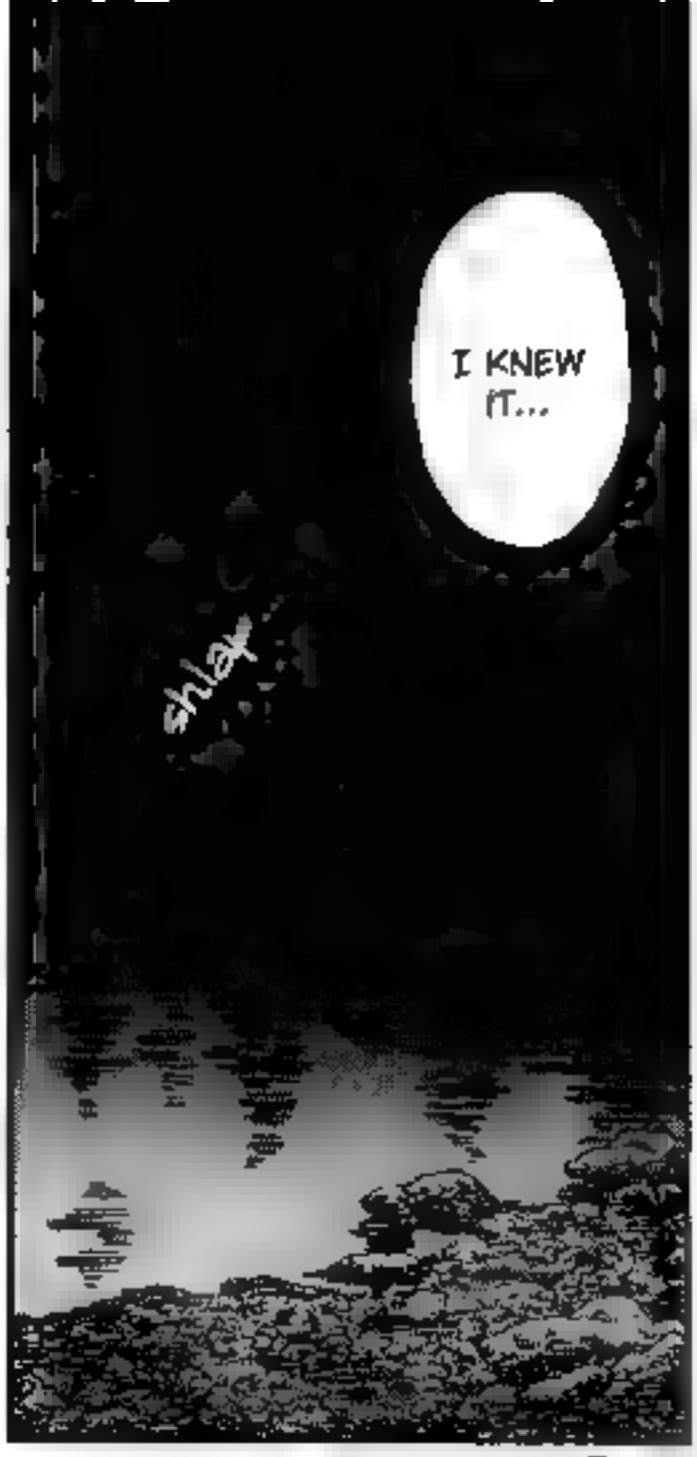
WHAT TIME IS IT?
PUT IT IN REVERSE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ICHI!

BRRRM
WHY DO I HAVE TO HAVE THE LIGHTS ON TO SEE...?

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

AAAAHH!!
HH
H
I PUT IT IN REVERSE! I DON'T KNOW WHY IT'S MOVING FORWARD!
NO, YOU IDIOT!
REVERSE! BACK IT UP!
Fshhhh

YOU KNEW WHAT?!
IT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT, WAS IT?


I KNEW IT...
shlap

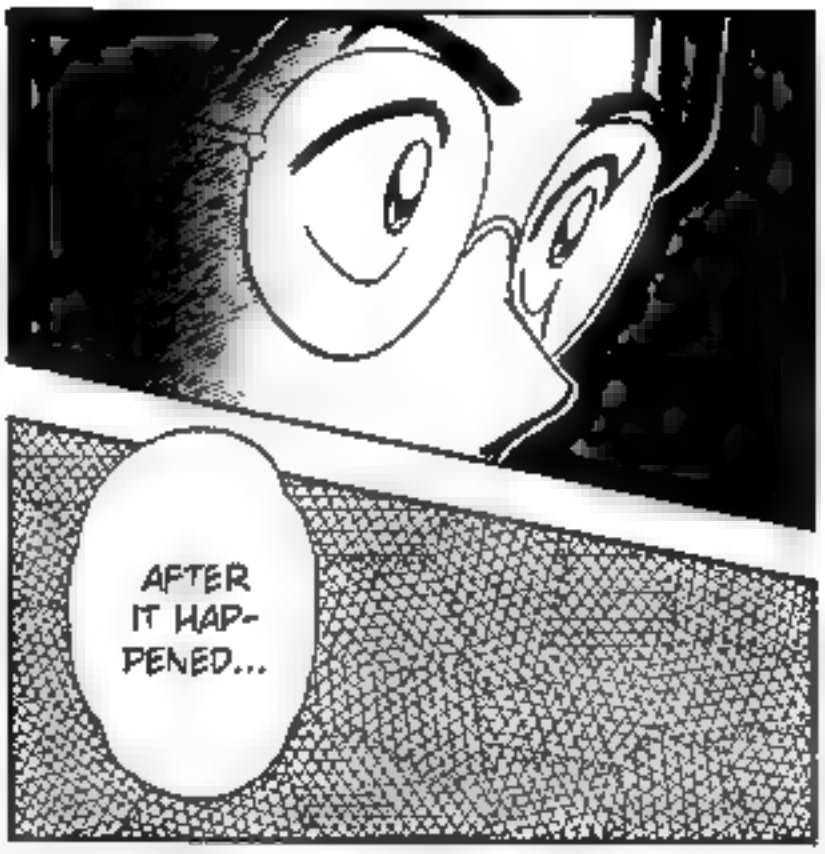
THIS WHOLE TIME!
DIDN'T IT ALWAYS BUG YOU GUYS TOO, IN THE BACK OF YOUR MINDS?
W-
WHY ARE YOU BRINGING THIS UP NOW?!

WE NEVER TOLD ANYBODY.
WE KEPT QUIET ABOUT IT.

WHY WOULD HE BE HAUNTING US, INSTEAD?!
IF IT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT, THEN DAIGO DID IT!
OH, COME ON.

MITSUO'S DOING ALL OF THIS.
IT'S MITSUO.

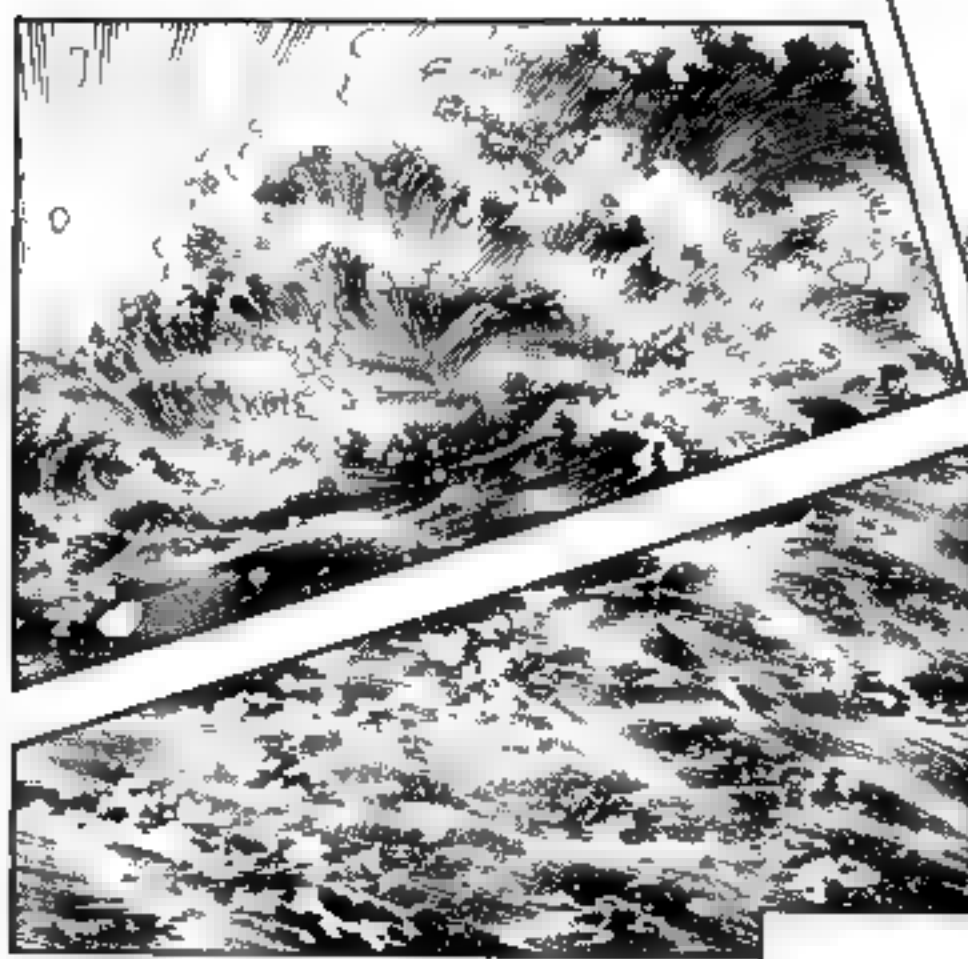
Minami Asakura Photo Book
Minami-kaze
BU
Photography Tomofumi Arito

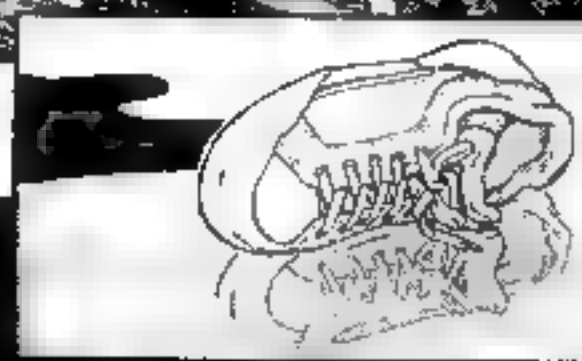

AFTER IT HAP-PENED...

THEY'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
NAH, FORGET IT.

YOU KNOW THAT BOOK'S LIKE HIS FAVORITE THING IN THE WORLD.
DAIGO LOOKED REALLY ANGRY JUST NOW.
YEAH, BUT,

SHOULD WE STOP 'EM?





Fshhh...

I ALSO REMEMBER THAT NOBODY ELSE SAW WHAT HAPPENED.

THEN YOU ALSO REMEMBER THAT MITSUO ALWAYS WALKED ON THE RAILING.

MITSUO WAS WALKING ON THE RAILING OF THE BRIDGE, LOST HIS FOOTING AND FELL IN THE SNAKE RIVER. IT HAD BEEN RAINING, SO THE RIVER WAS HIGHER AND MORE POWERFUL THAN USUAL...
YOU REMEMBER WHAT DAIGO SAID.
I REMEMBER THAT.

I BET IF WE HAD TOLD SOMEONE THEY HAD BEEN FIGHTING JUST BEFORE IT HAPPENED,

THE POLICE WOULD HAVE INVESTI-GATED.

I REMEM-BER.

I REMEM-BER HOW ACROBATIC HE WAS.

THAT BRIDGE...

IT WAS BLOWN AWAY IN THE STORM, THAT YEAR.

...LIKE THAT.

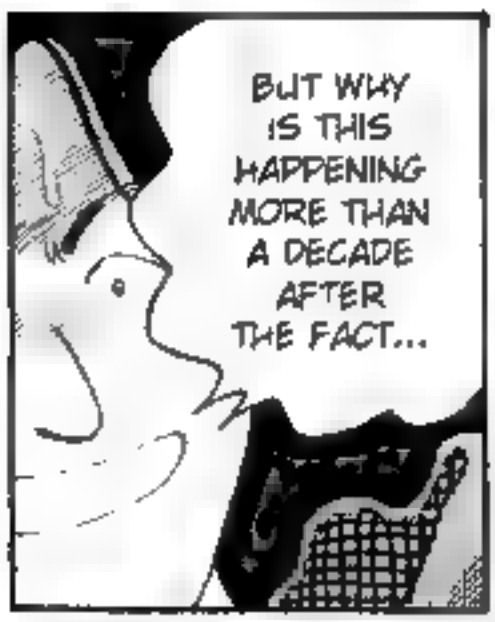
ACRO-BATIC ENOUGH NOT TO MAKE A STUPID MISTAKE...

zah...

There were bruises on Daigo's face from being in a fight...

M,
MITSUO?!
EEEEEK!!
herk
I THINK HE'S TELLING US TO COME WITH HIM...

HE'S GOT SOMETHING TO SAY TO US.


BUT WHY IS THIS HAPPENING MORE THAN A DECADE AFTER THE FACT...

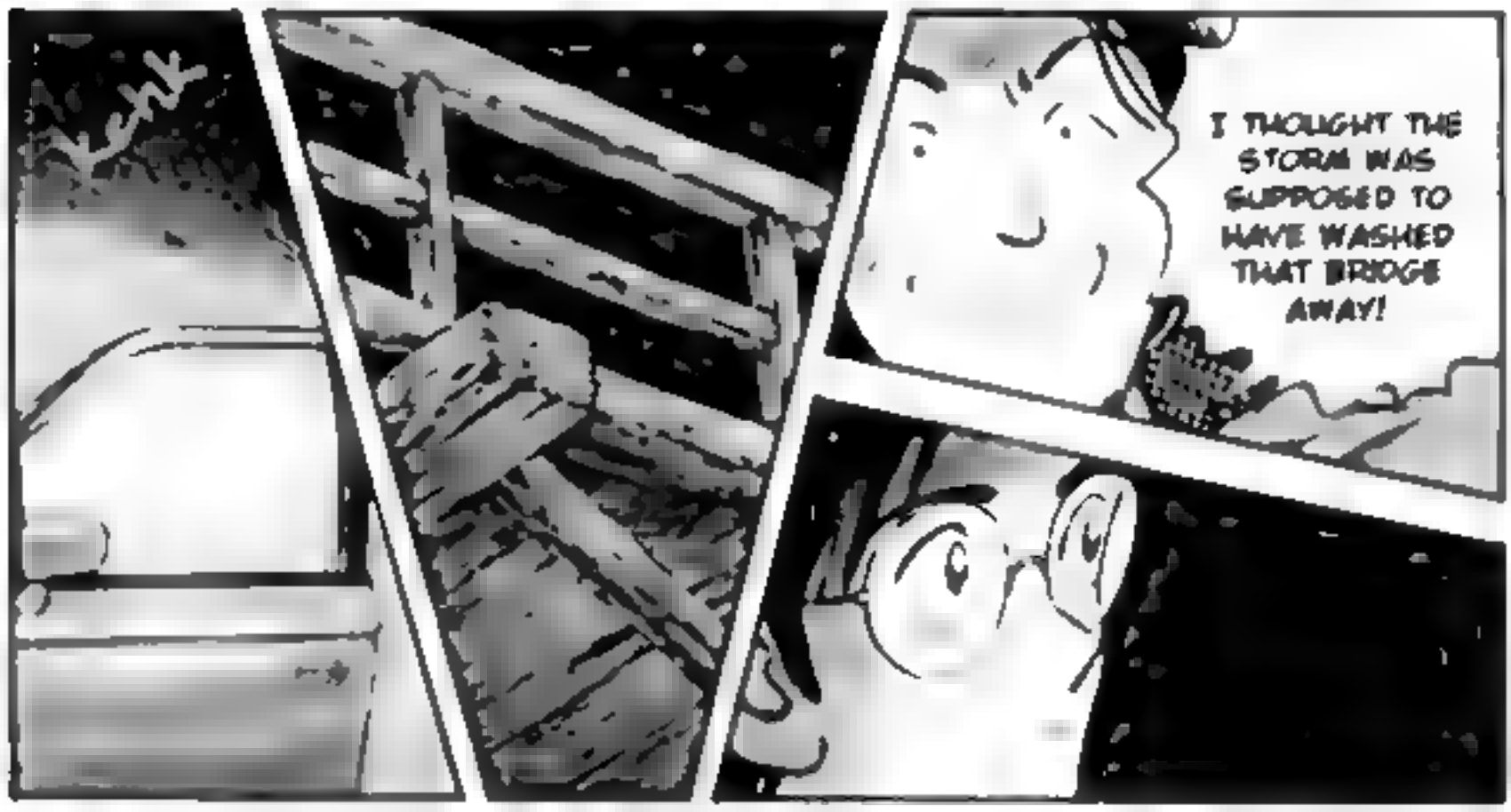
I KNOW THAT! HE WANTS VENGEANCE FOR WHAT HAPPENED!

GO ON.
N-
NO WAY, DUDE!

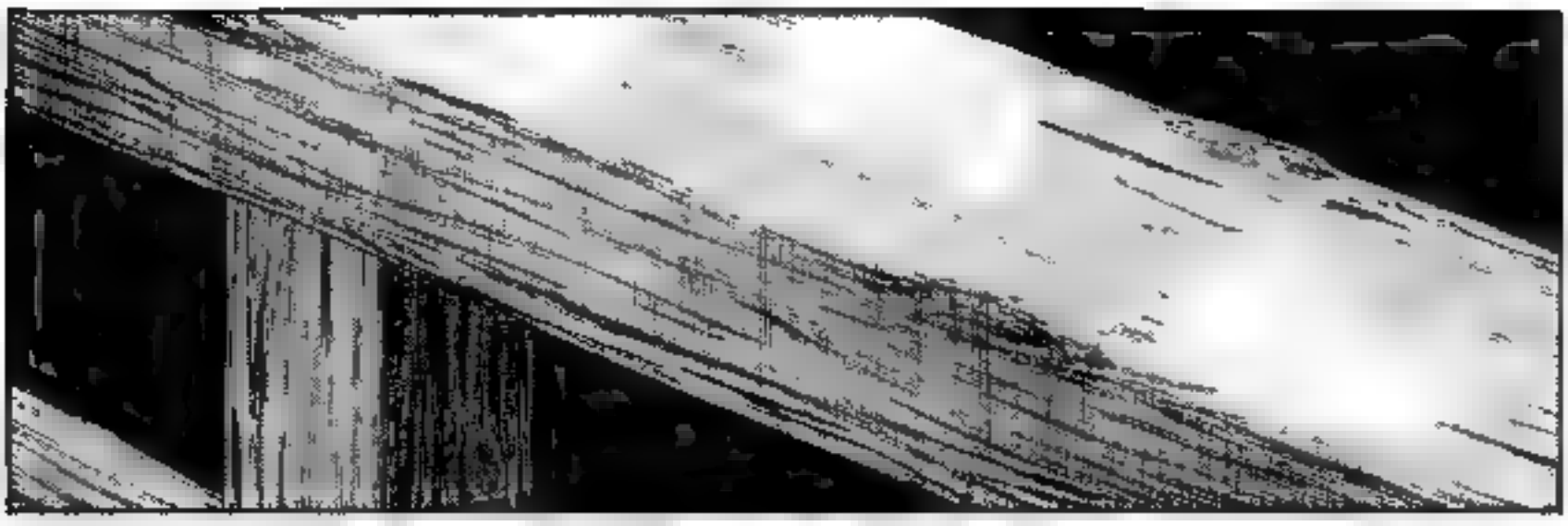
TH-
THE CAR'S MOVING ON ITS OWN!
ZZZMMMMooo

ZZM...
AAAH!

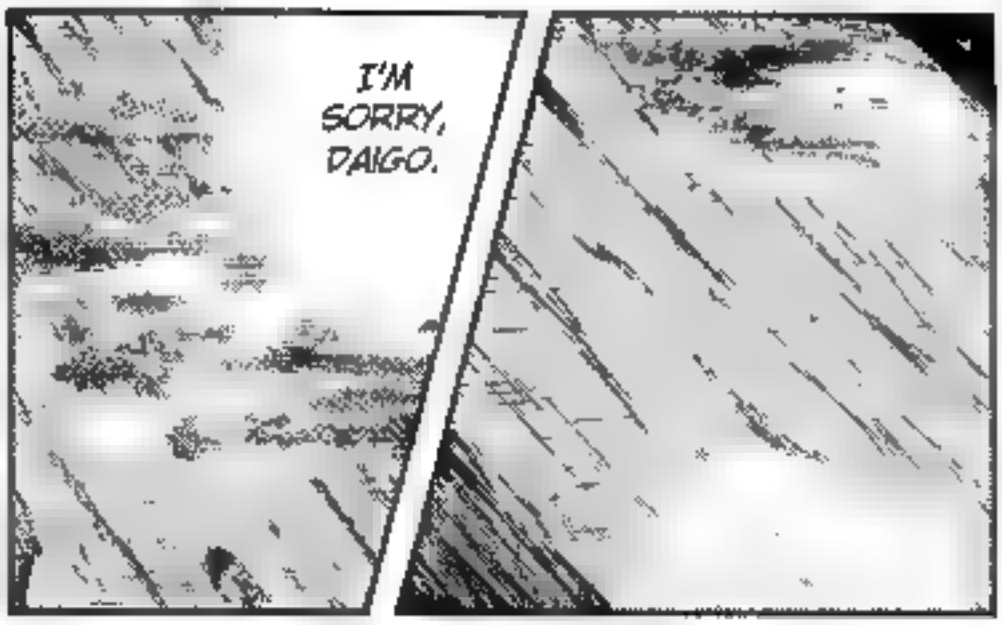
Fshhh


Kchk
I THOUGHT THE STORM WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE WASHED THAT BRIDGE AWAY!

HE HAS SOME-THING TO SAY TO US.
SLAM
SHIRO!
US, AS WE ARE NOW.



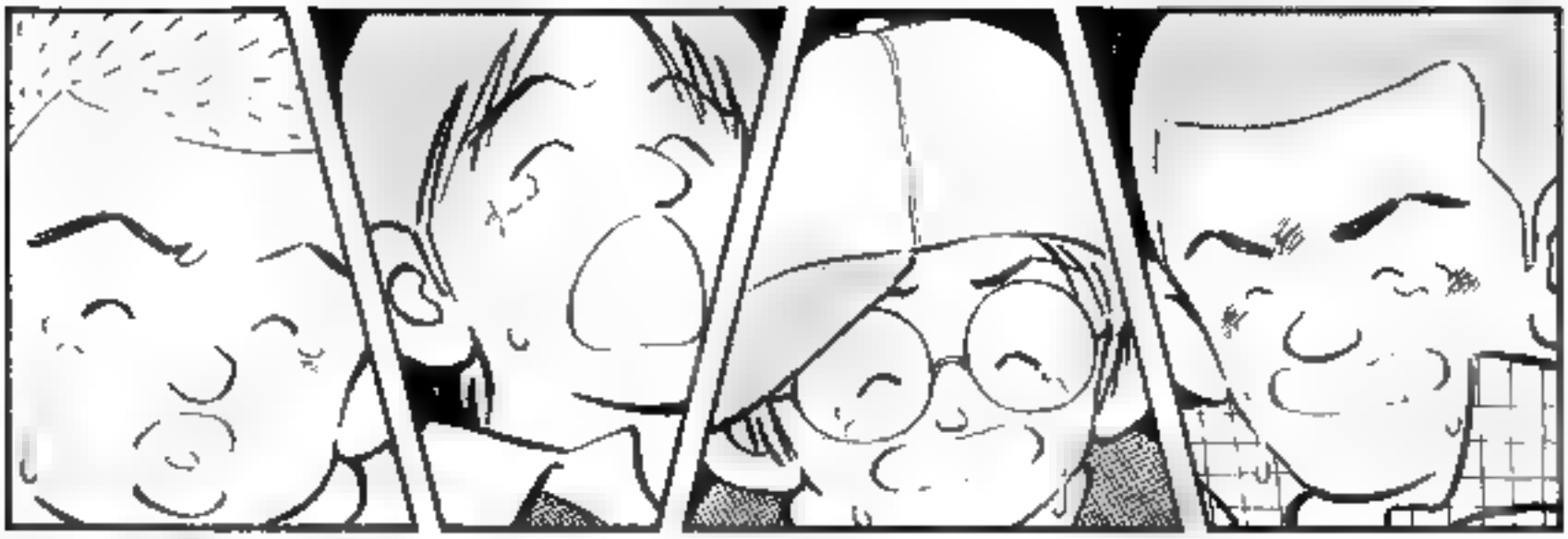
STOP MITSUO, IT'S DANGEROUS.
IF I SHOW YOU MY SECRET TRICK, WILL YOU FORGIVE ME?


I'M SORRY, DAIGO.

THINK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED...
THINK BACK ON IT NOW.

THERE'S ONE THING WE DIDN'T REMEMBER...

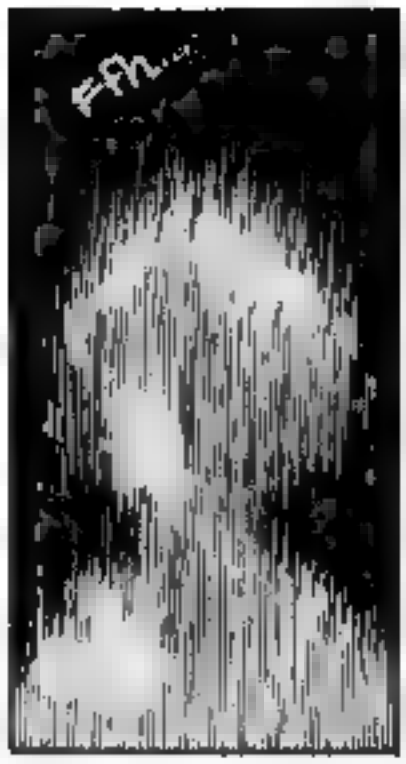
MOSS...



WE TRUSTED THEM, THAT'S WHY...

WE WEREN'T PROTECT-ING ANYONE.

WE DIDN'T NEED TO SAY ANYTHING.


FFH...

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MITSUO.

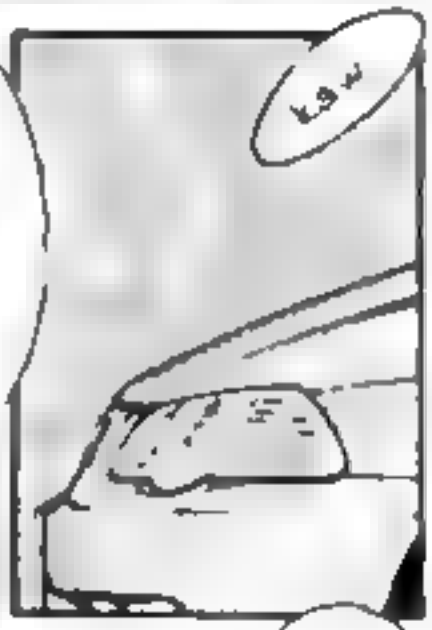
What was

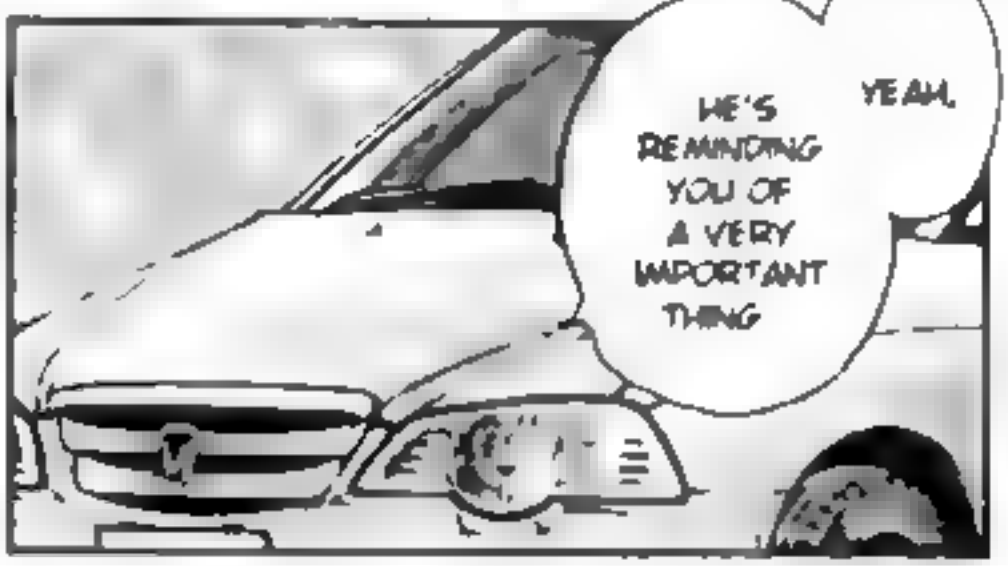
BUT HE LOOKED SO REGRETFUL WHEN HE FINALLY LEFT...
IT WAS ALWAYS A PAINFULLY LAME EXCUSE,

...WHENEVER DAIGO WOULD COME TO VISIT ME IN TOKYO,
HE'D ALWAYS COME UP WITH SOME SUDDEN EXCUSE TO LEAVE.

WE ALSO NURTURED SOMETHING POINTLESS BETWEEN US.
I THINK WHEN WE GREW UP,

(Sign Folk Crafts Daigo)

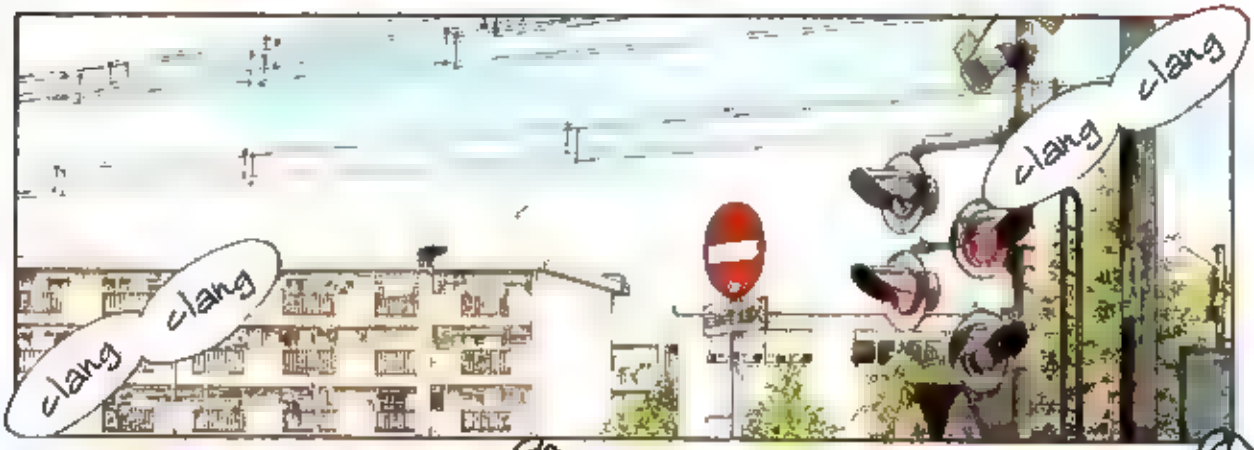




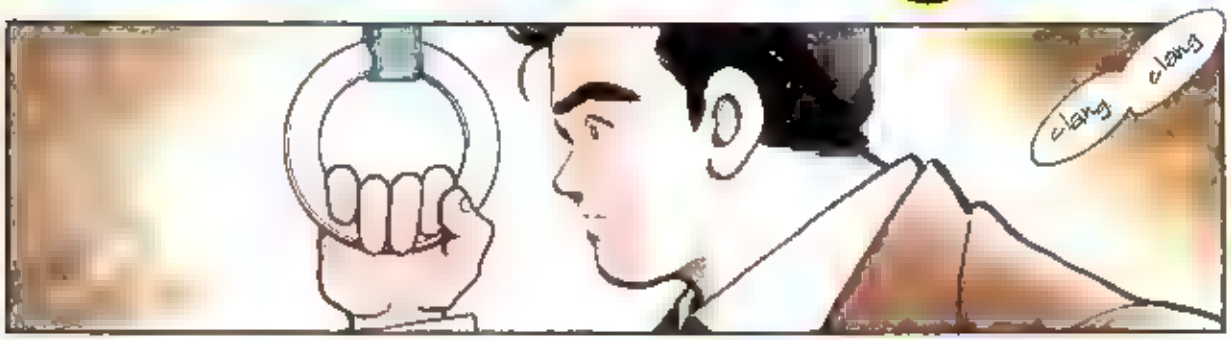
- Chapter 2 End -

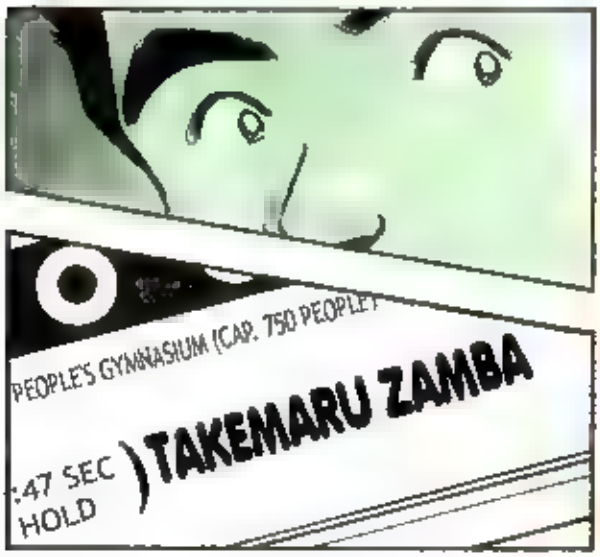
CHAPTER
3
HERO

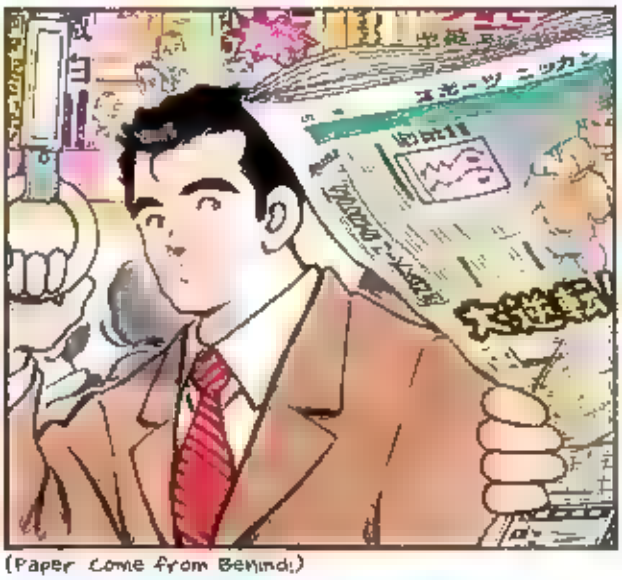
Hmmmk



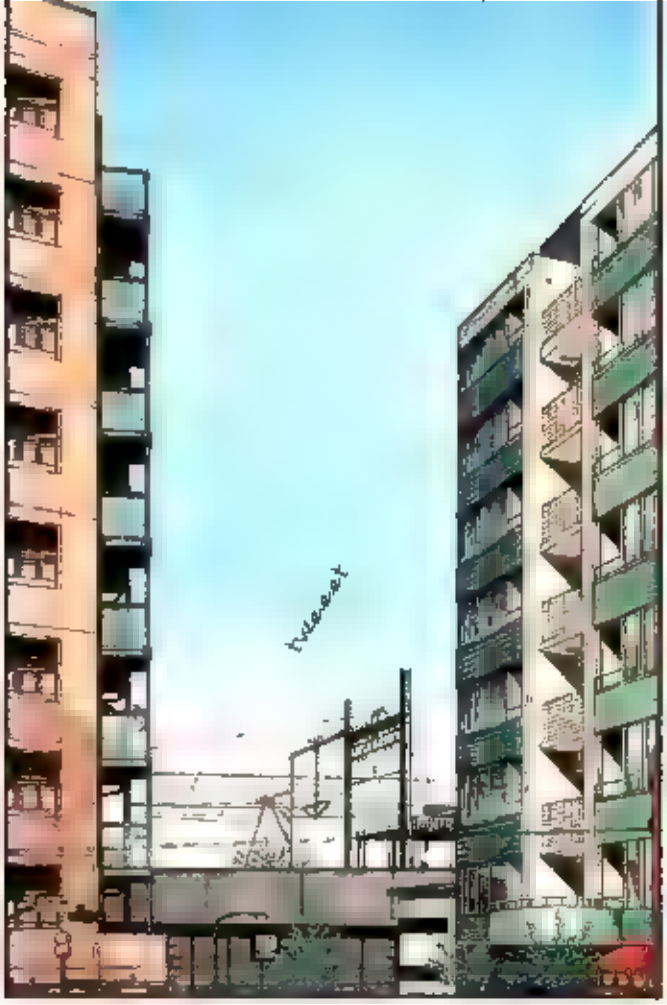
Scanned by Athanor
Translated by Stephen
Edited by Pet







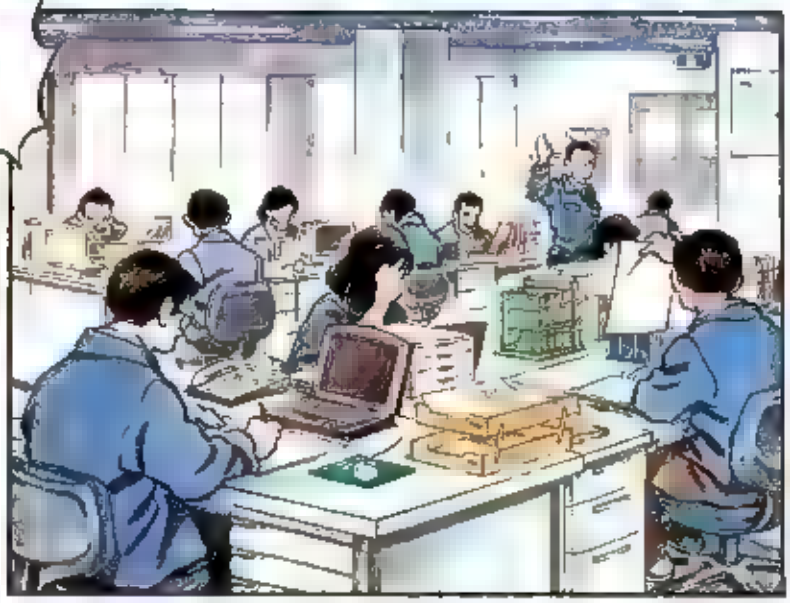
(Paper Come from Behind:)



GATAN
GATAN

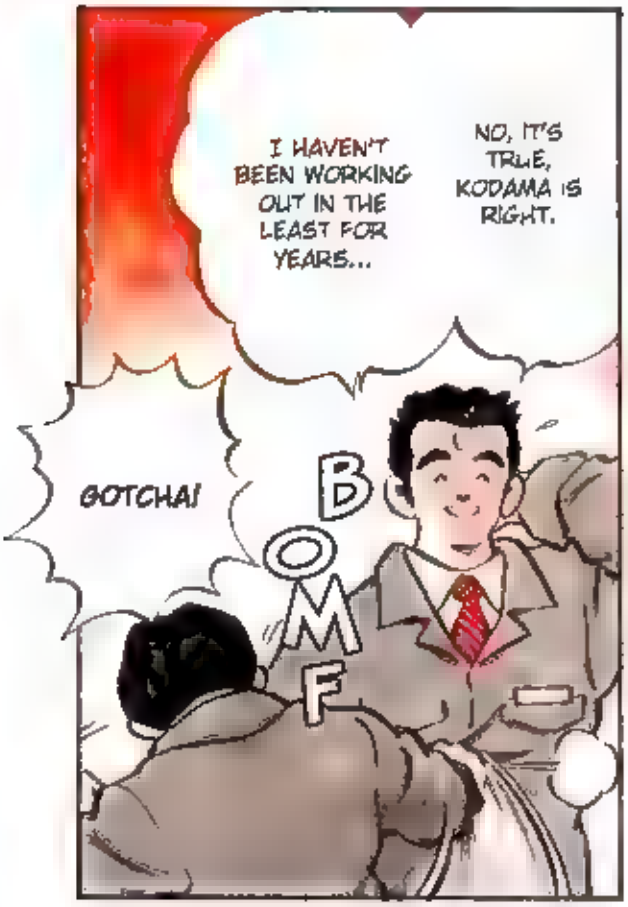
SHIMAOH ELECTRONICS

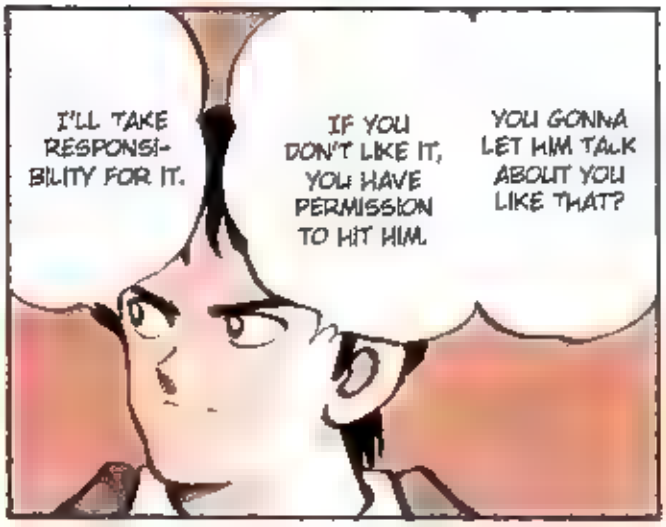
I'LL PASS IT ALONG!
UNDER-STOOD!
YES SIR!



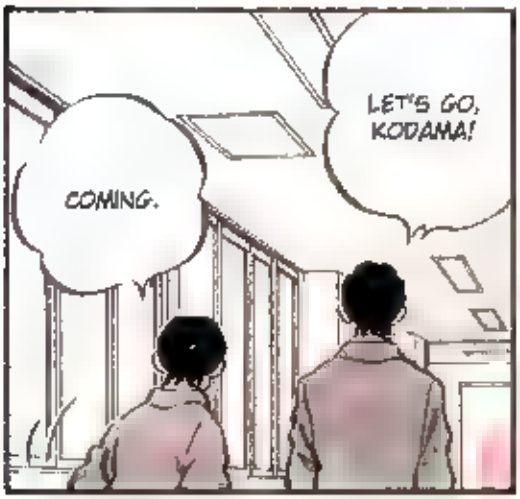
PLOP
SECTION CHIEF!
ABOUT THE DEAL WITH HACHIOJI CONSTRUCTION...
BOC
Professional
Wrestling
Takemaru Zamba
Tokyo-to, Chyoda-ku,
Hitotsubashi
Shmash Electronics KK
Technology Division
Yuji Kamizato
THWUP
SHHUNK

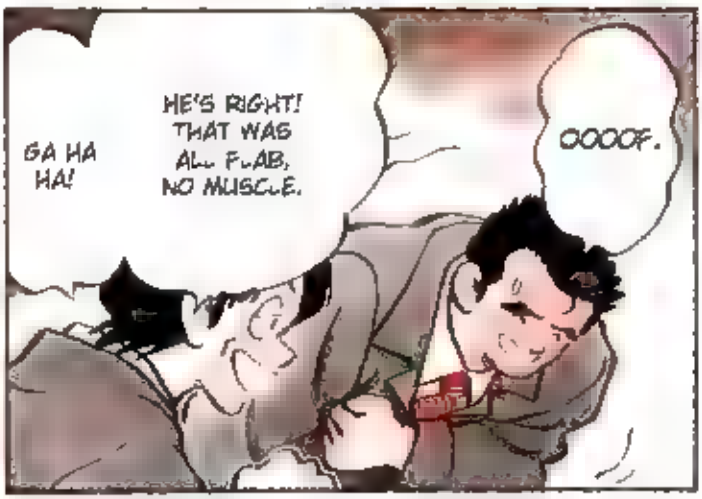
FSHHHH
KAMI-SATO,
NOW THAT I GET A GOOD LOOK AT YOU, YOU'VE GOT A NICE BUILD.
MEN'S RESTROOM
OH?
NOT REALLY...
DID YOU PLAY ANY SPORTS IN SCHOOL?
WHEN YOU COMPARE HIM SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THE MEIO UNIVERSITY RUGBY CENTER BACK MR. HONJO,
keke
THE DIFFERENCE IS CLEAR! HE'S ALL LOOKS, NO FILLING.
KAHAHAHA! KAMISATO'S HOBBY IS MODEL TRAINS!

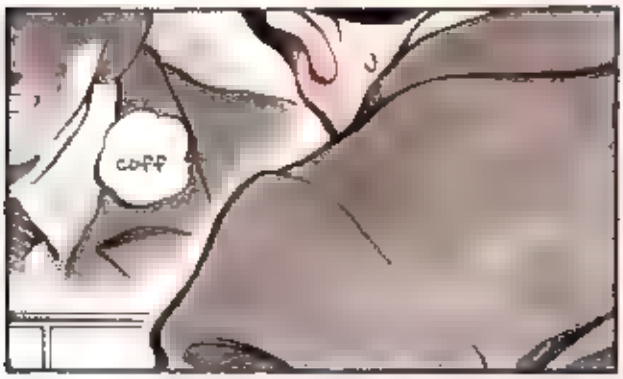

I HAVEN'T BEEN WORKING OUT IN THE LEAST FOR YEARS...
NO, IT'S TRUE, KODAMA IS RIGHT.
GOTCHA!
BOMF

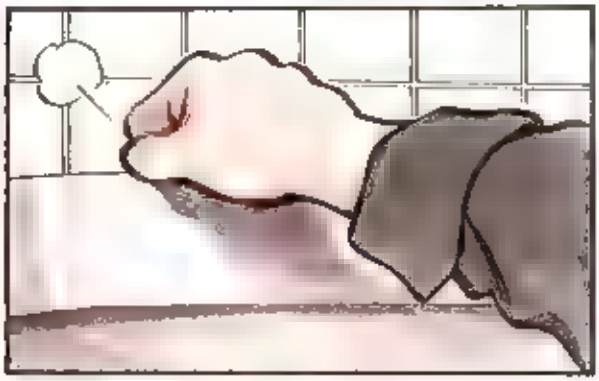

I'LL TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY FOR IT.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO HIT HIM.
YOU GONNA LET HIM TALK ABOUT YOU LIKE THAT?

W-WAIT A MINUTE,
DON'T EGG HIM ON, MR. HONJO!

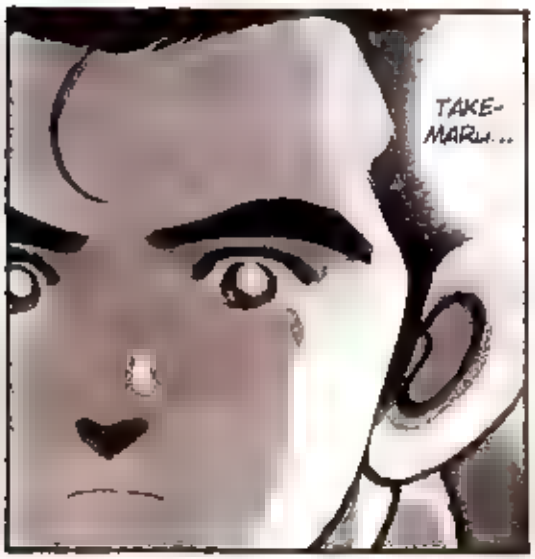

LET'S GO, KODAMA!
COMING.

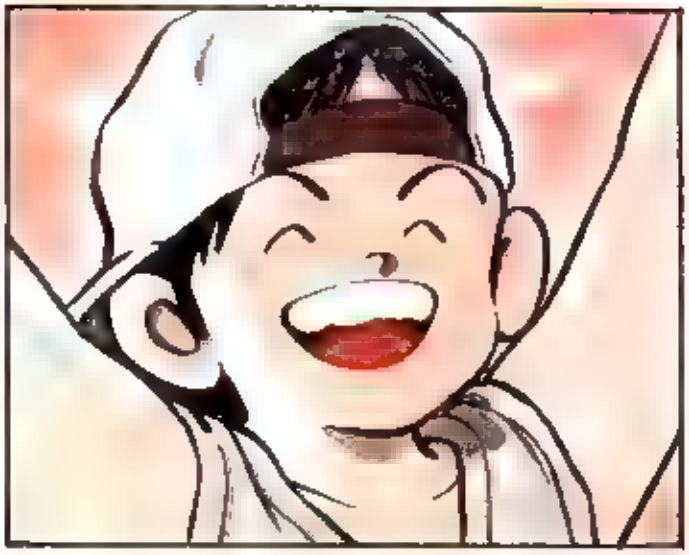

GA HA HA!
HE'S RIGHT! THAT WAS ALL FLAB, NO MUSCLE.
OOOOF.


COFF



GUTS


TAKE-
MARu...



Coffee POGO
hannnk
I MUST HAVE LEFT IT IN THE LOCKER WHEN I WAS CHANGING...
I WAS HAVING TROUBLE FINDING MY WALLET.
MR. KAMI-SATO.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, MS. TAKA-SAKA?

TODAY IS MY BIRTHDAY.

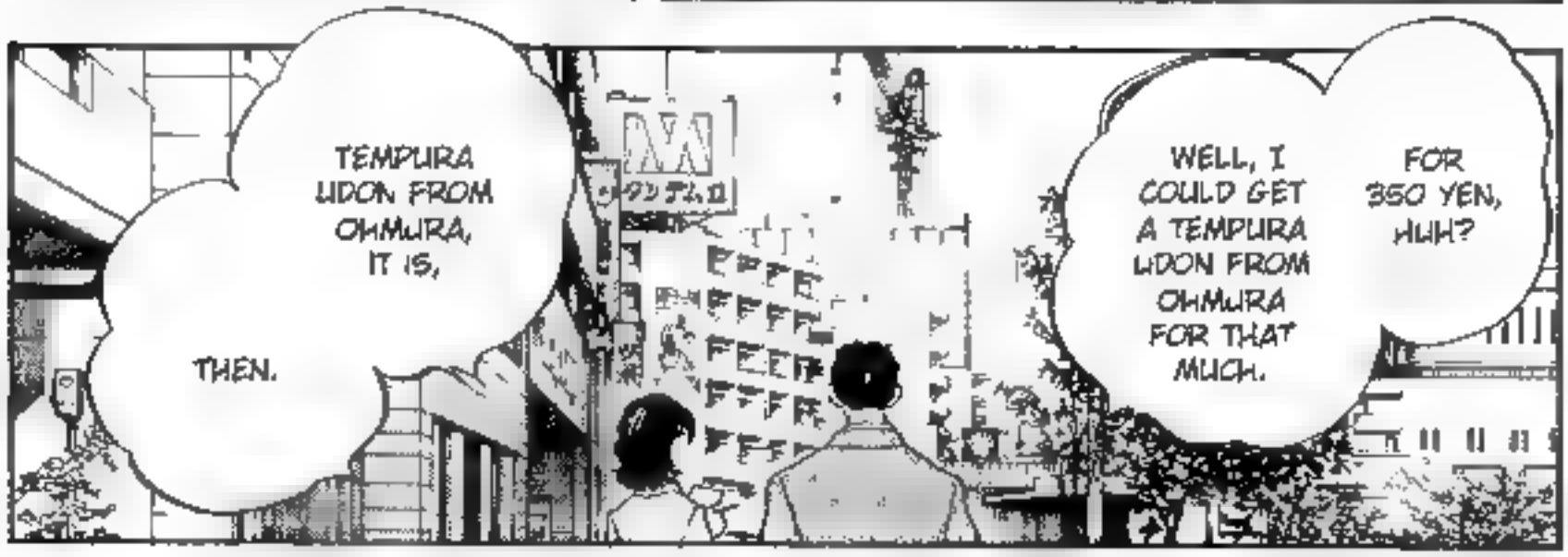
I'LL PAY YOU BACK AS SOON AS I GET BACK TO WORK.
OH, THANK YOU.
I CAN PICK UP YOUR BILL, THEN.

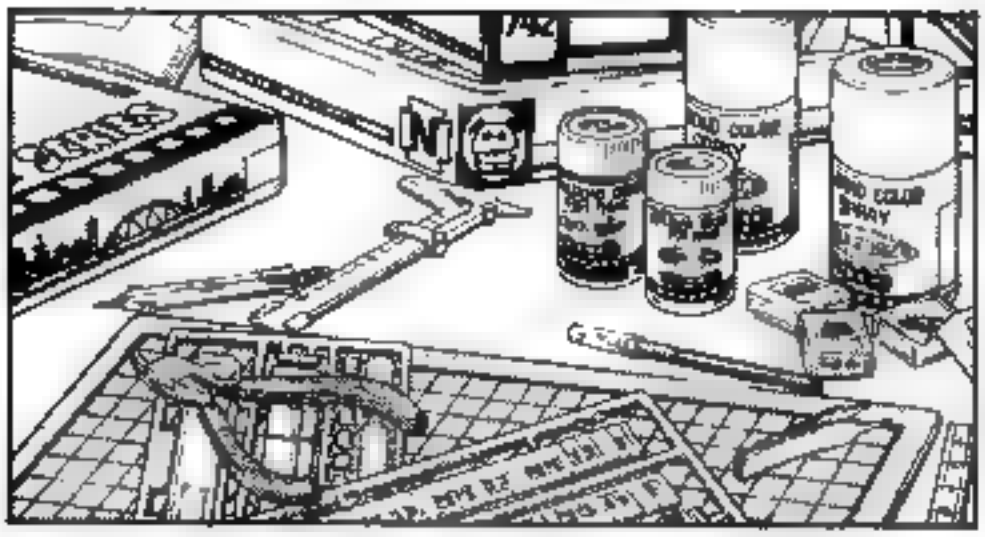
OH?

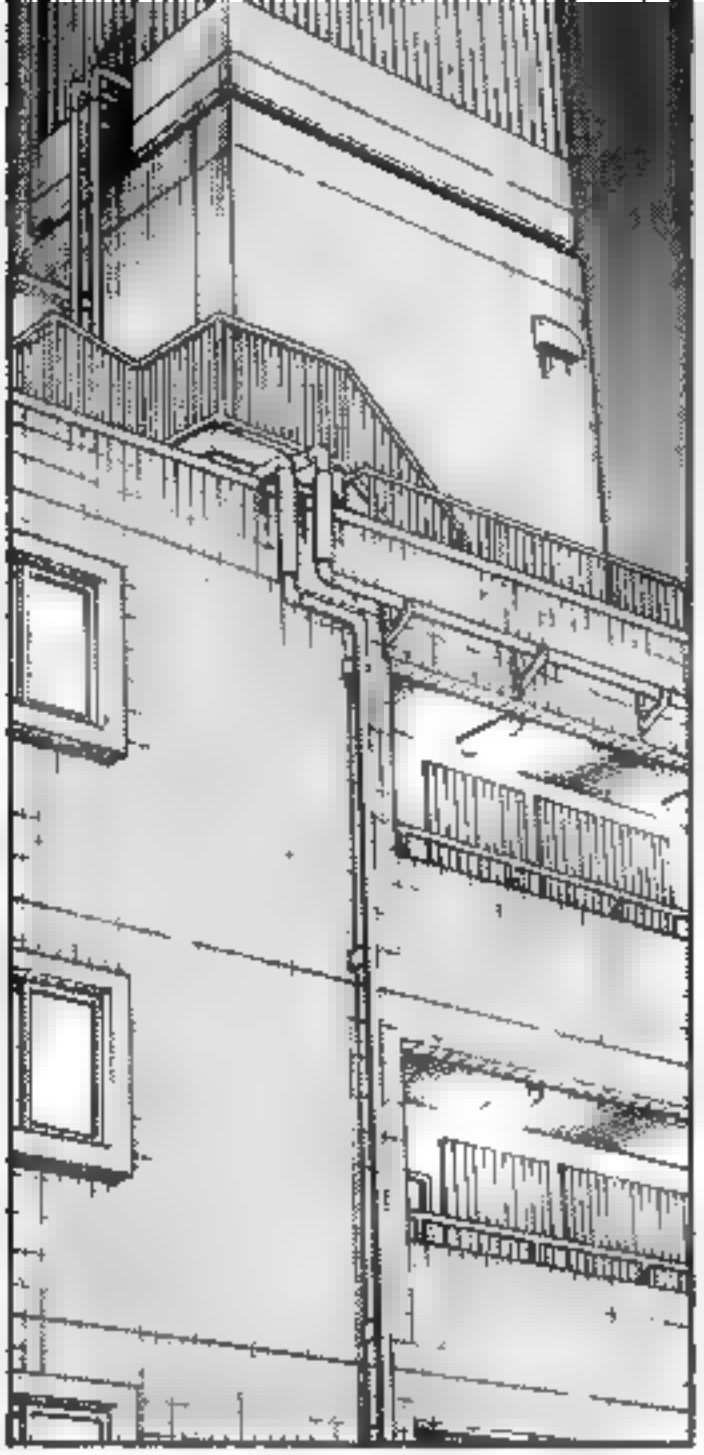
THEN IT CAN BE MY BIRTHDAY PRESENT, I SUPPOSE.
IT'S NO PROBLEM. ONLY 350 YEN.

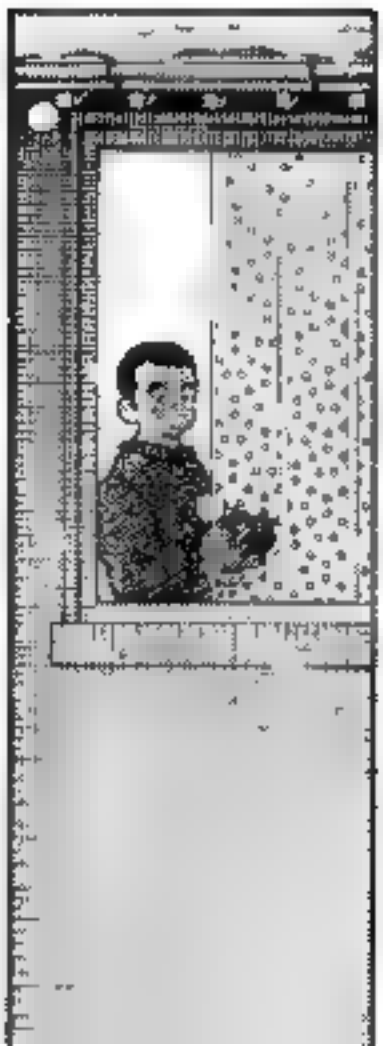
CLANGG
I'LL PICK UP YOUR TAB ON YOUR BIRTHDAY NEXT.

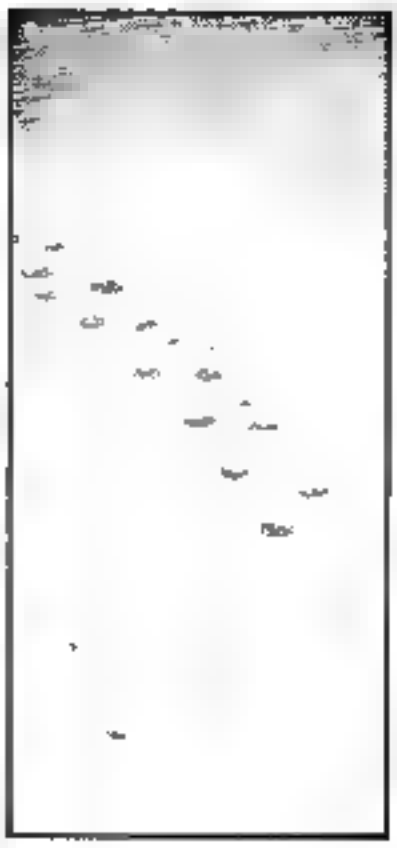
IT IS?
WELL, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, THEN.

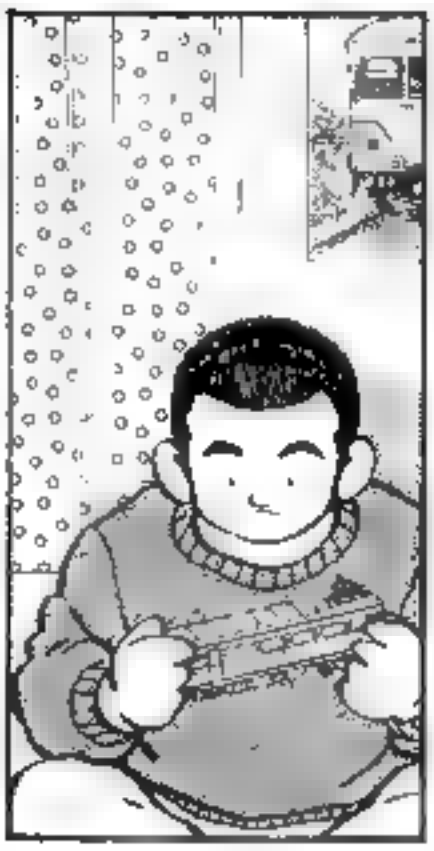

TEMPURA UDON FROM OHMURA, IT IS, THEN.
WELL, I COULD GET A TEMPURA UDON FROM OHMURA FOR THAT MUCH.
FOR 350 YEN, HUH?

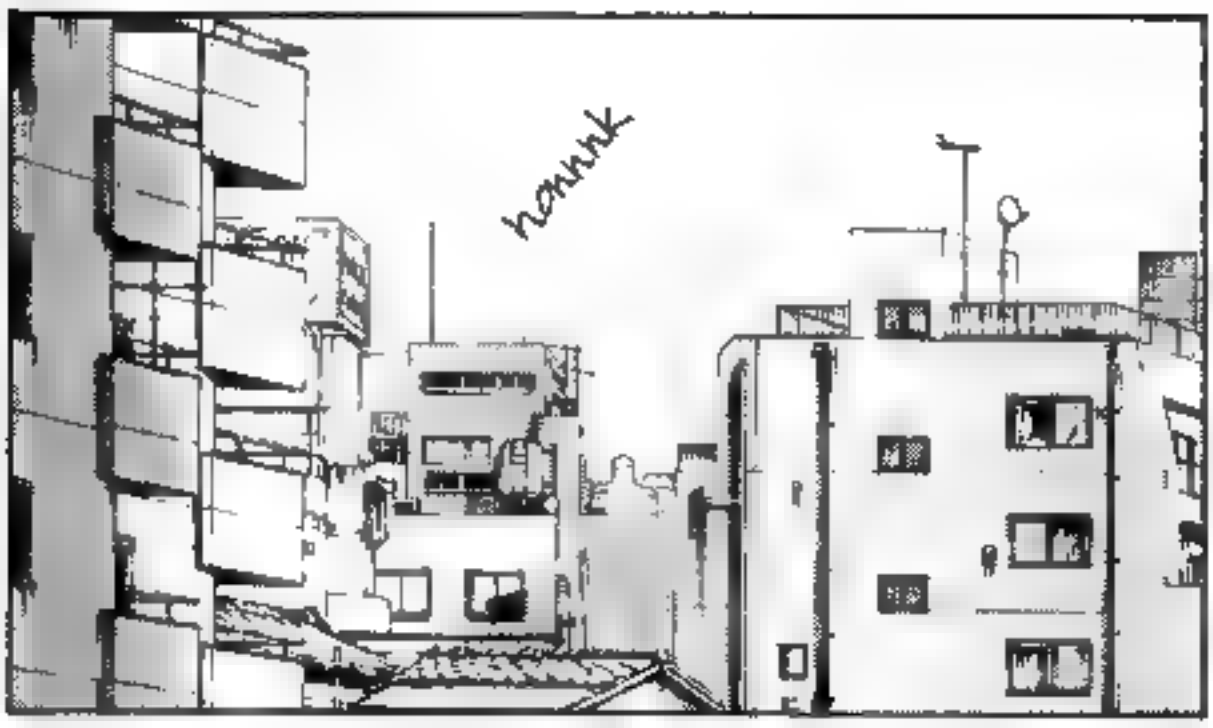

N
GOLD COLOR SPRAY



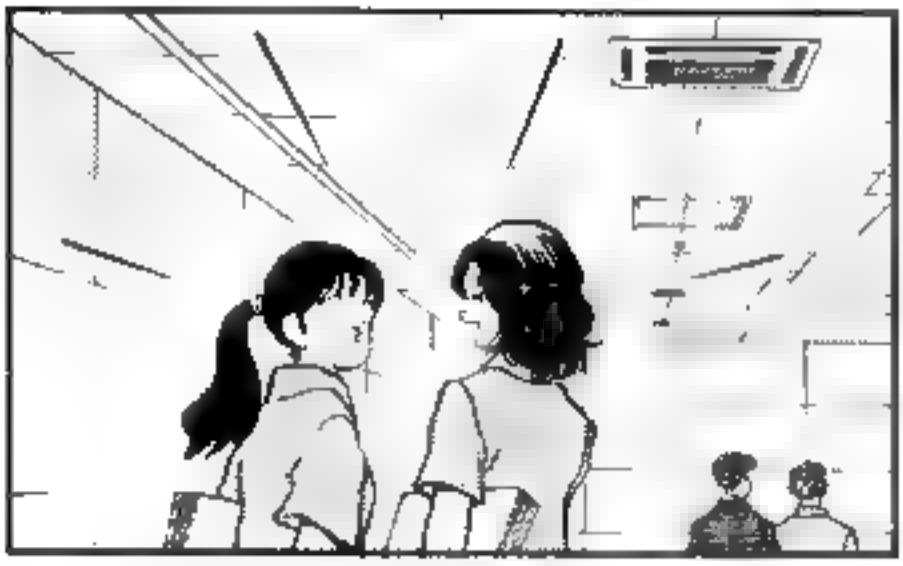




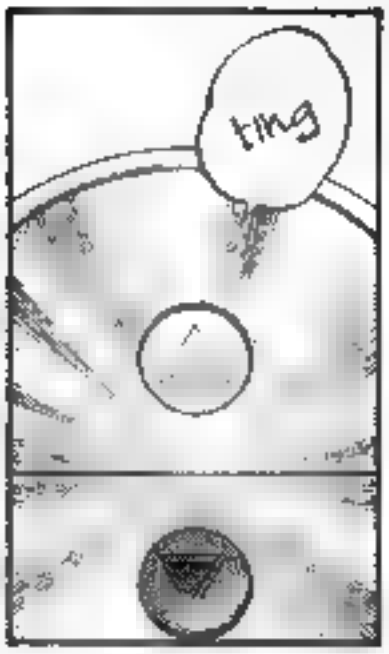



honnk

GOOD MORNING!



OH,
GOOD MORNING.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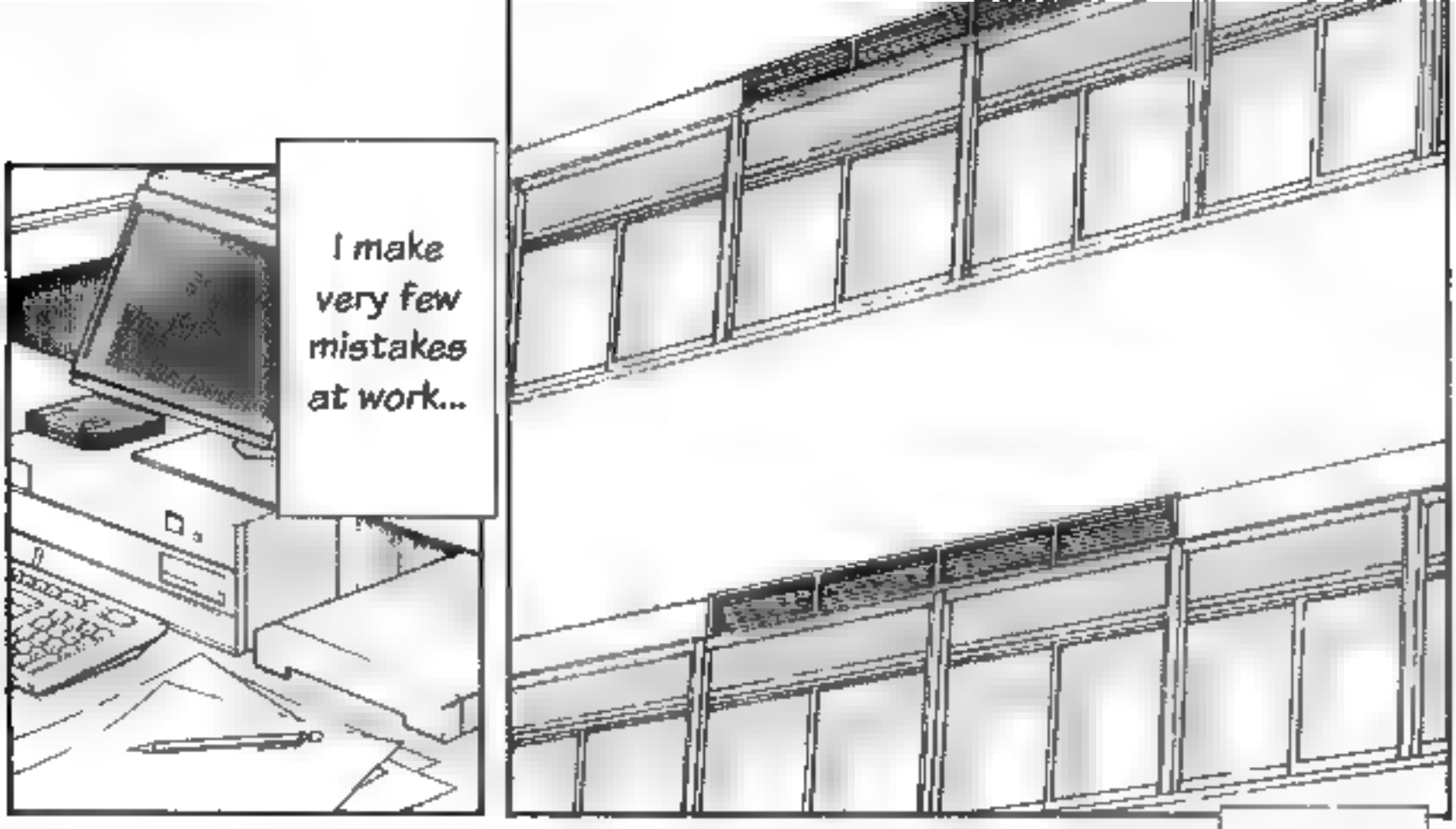
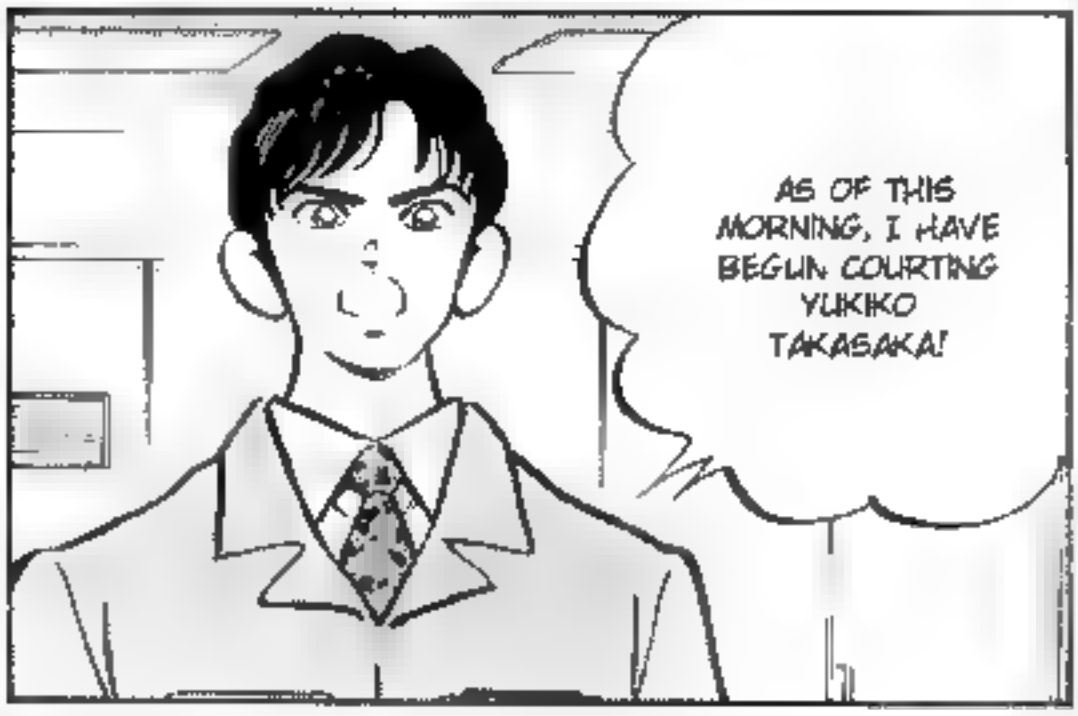
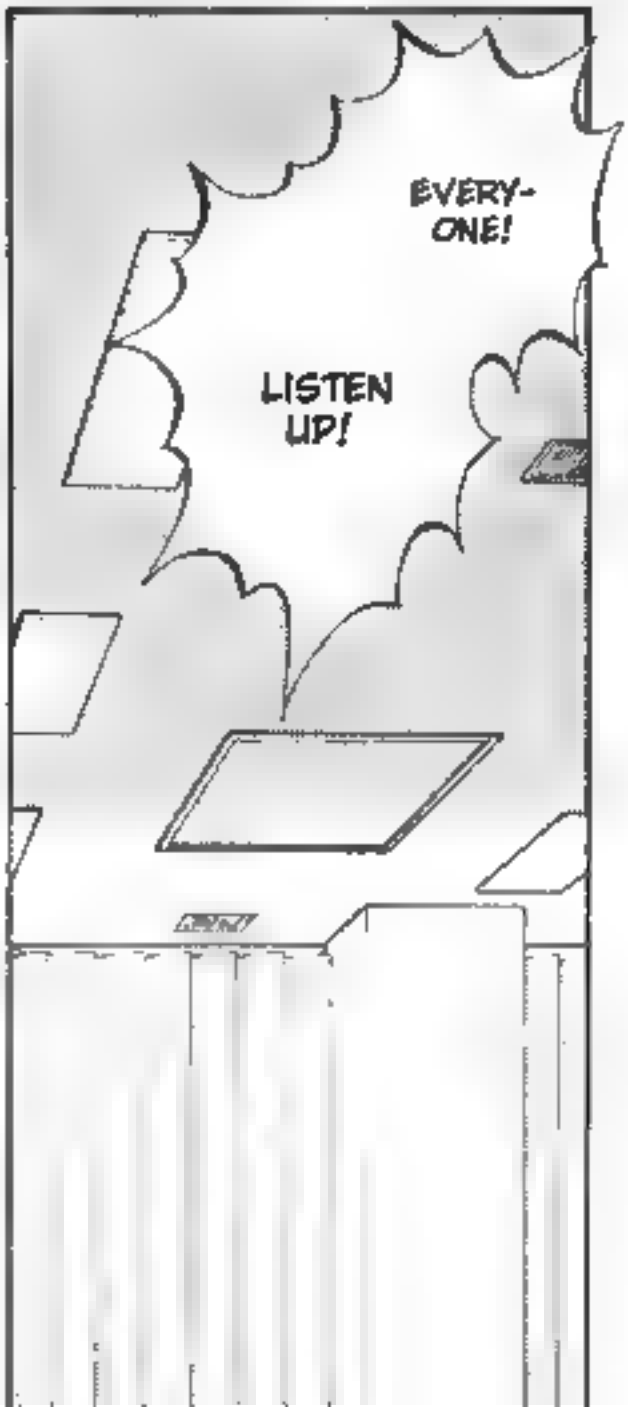

I make very few mistakes at work...

I've always done everything I could to avoid trouble or unnecessary risks.
I know my limits. I know what I'm capable of.


AS OF THIS MORNING, I HAVE BEGUN COURTING YUKIKO TAKASAKA!


EVERY-ONE!
LISTEN UP!

WHAAAT?

I LIKE TO AIM FOR THE TRY HEAD-ON, AND I ANNOUNCE MY INTENTIONS STRAIGHTFOR-WARDLY!
IT'S NOT TO MY TASTE TO GO SNEAKING AROUND!

WHO WOULD EVER THINK TO DO SOME-THING LIKE THAT?!
HA HA HA!

I WON'T RUN OR HIDE FROM YOU! I'LL ACCEPT YOUR CHALLENGE HEAD-ON!
IF ANYONE DESIRES TO STOP ME, OR COMPETE WITH ME, PLEASE COME FORTH!

WHO COULD PUT UP A FIGHT AGAINST YOU?

ga ha ha

THE TARGET OF AFFECTION FOR FEMALES COMPANY-WIDE!

YOU'RE THE MANAGING DIRECTOR'S SON, AND YOU'VE GOT THE BEST LOOKS AND PHYSIQUE IN THE COMPANY!

A grown-up doesn't fight...

GOOD POINT...

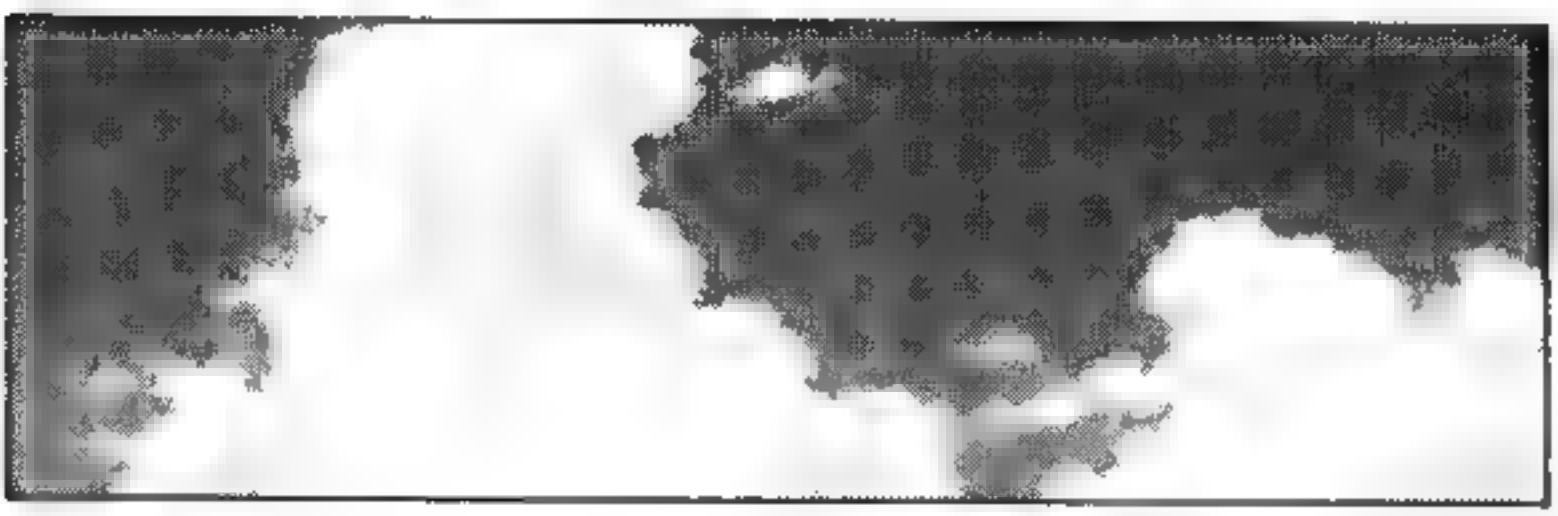
I WISH I HAD A FREE RIDE THROUGH LIFE LIKE THAT! ♡

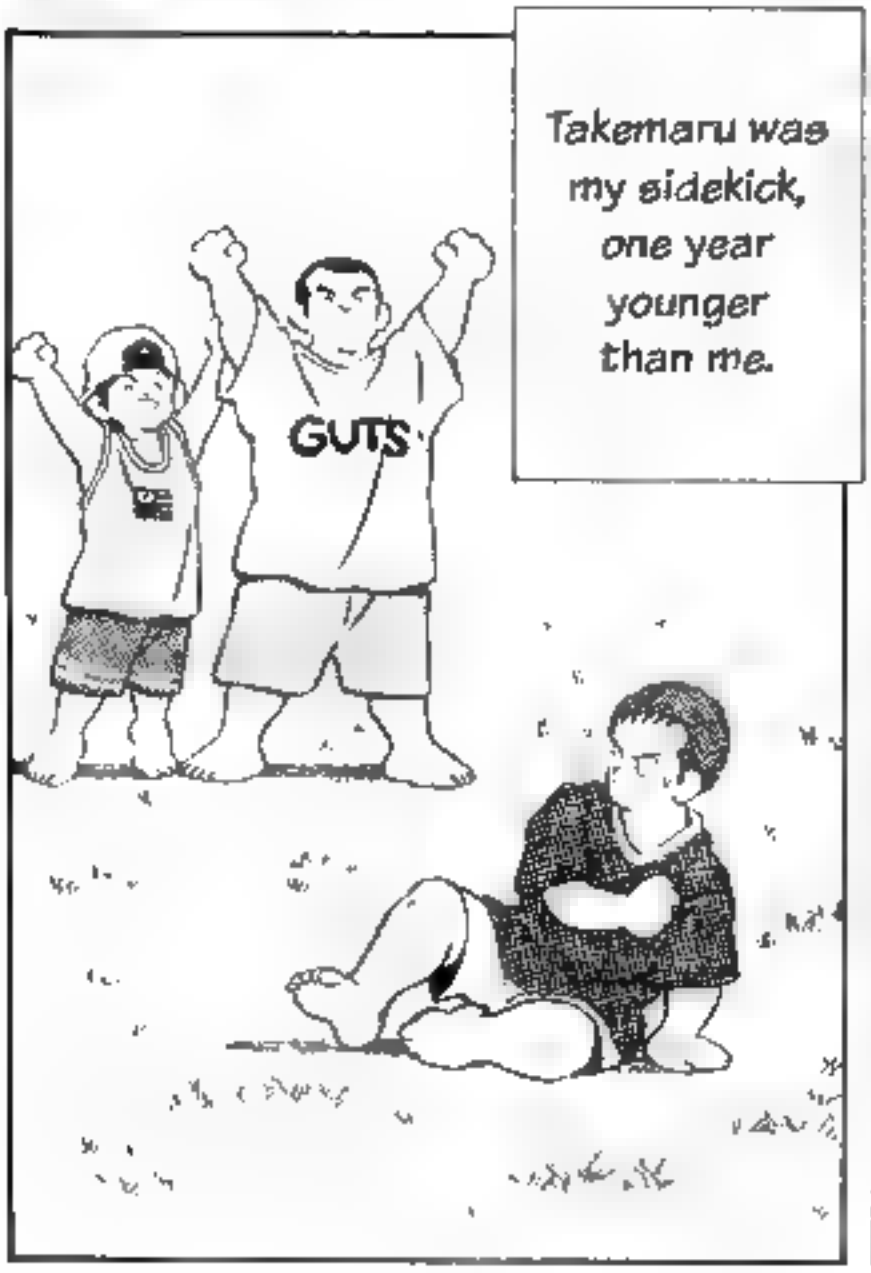
I'M SO JEALOUS, YUKIKO!

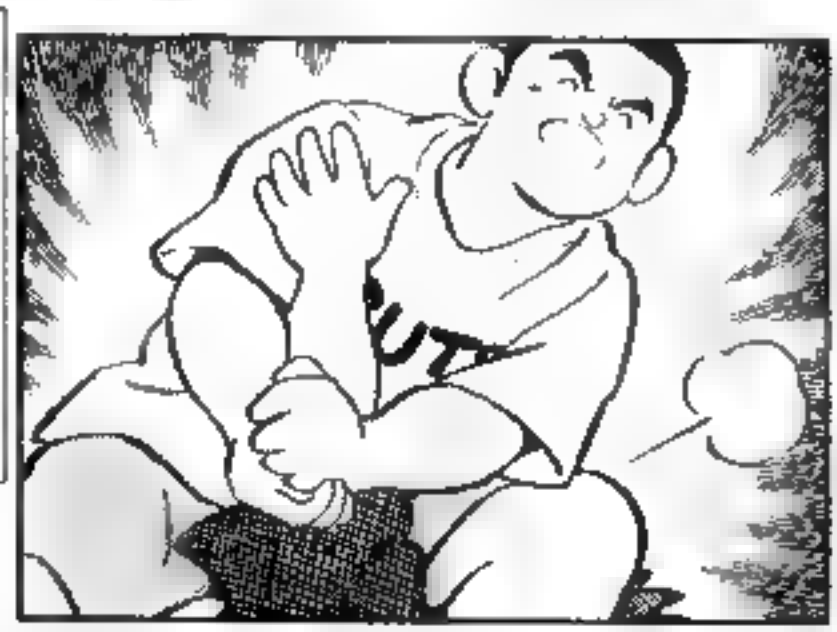
BRMMMM

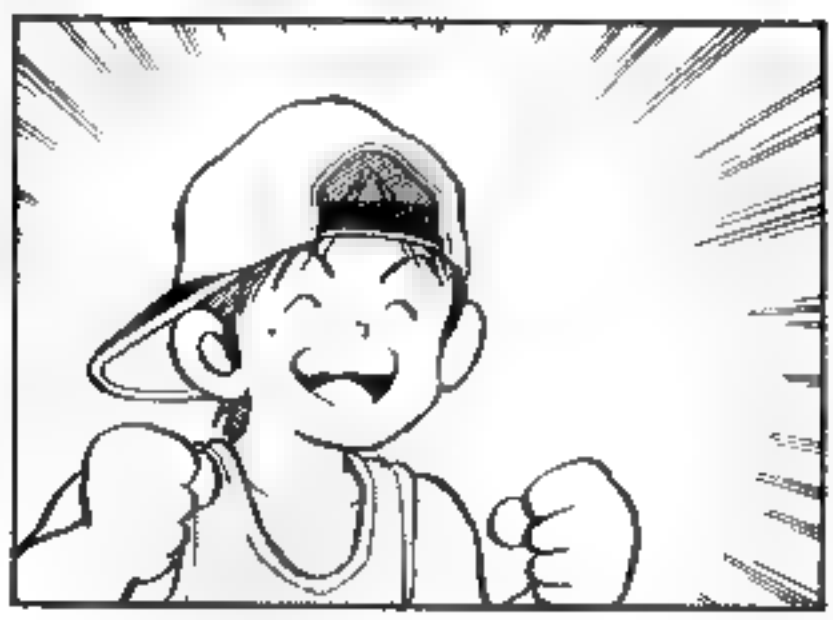
I never lost.
pshht

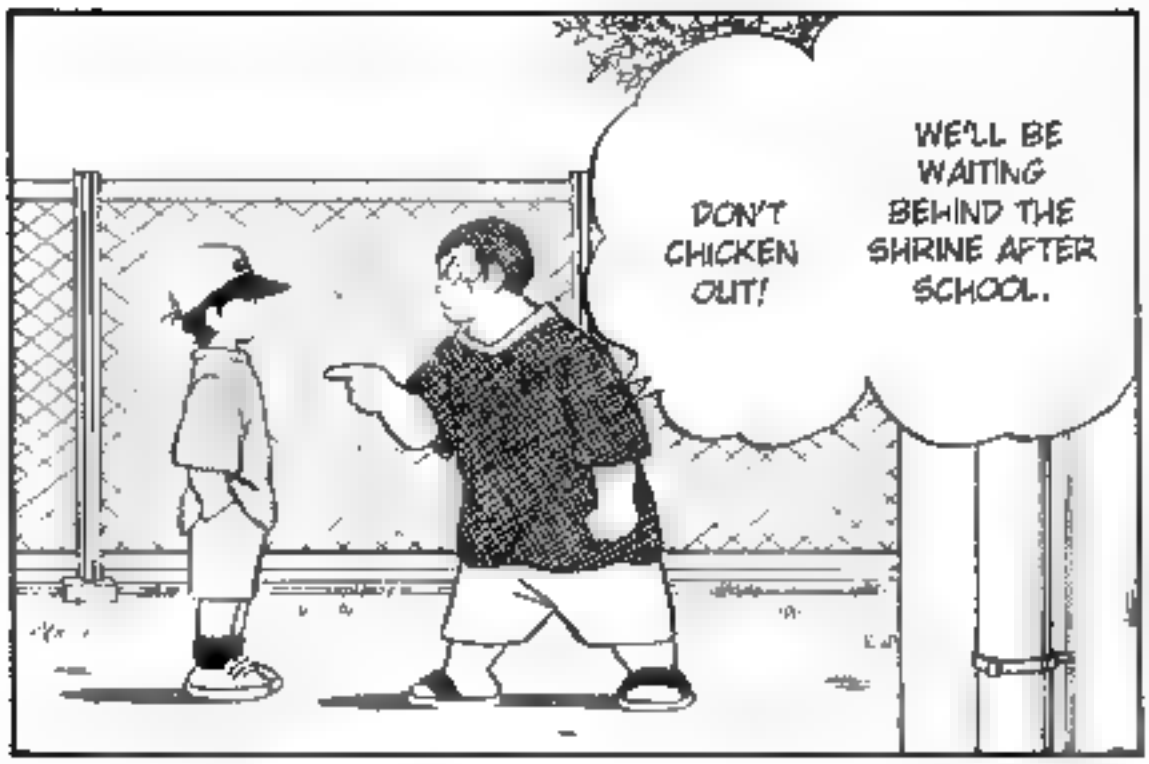
CLUNK




Takemaru was my sidekick, one year younger than me.
GUTS

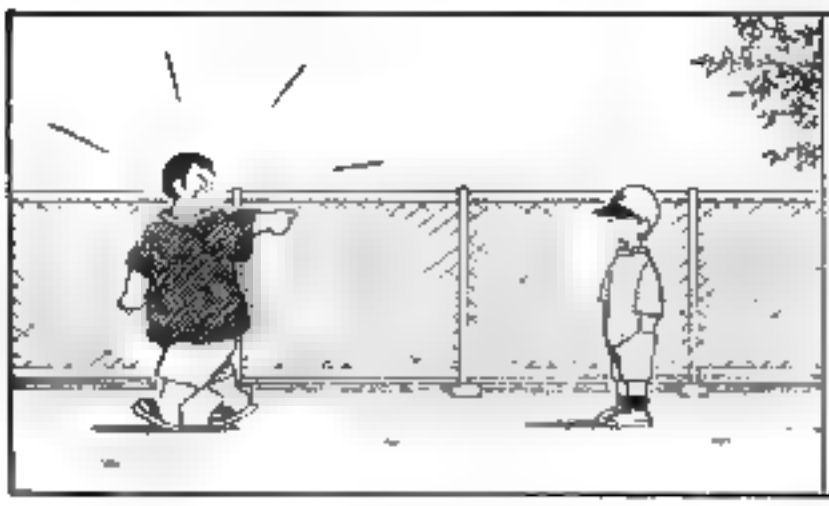


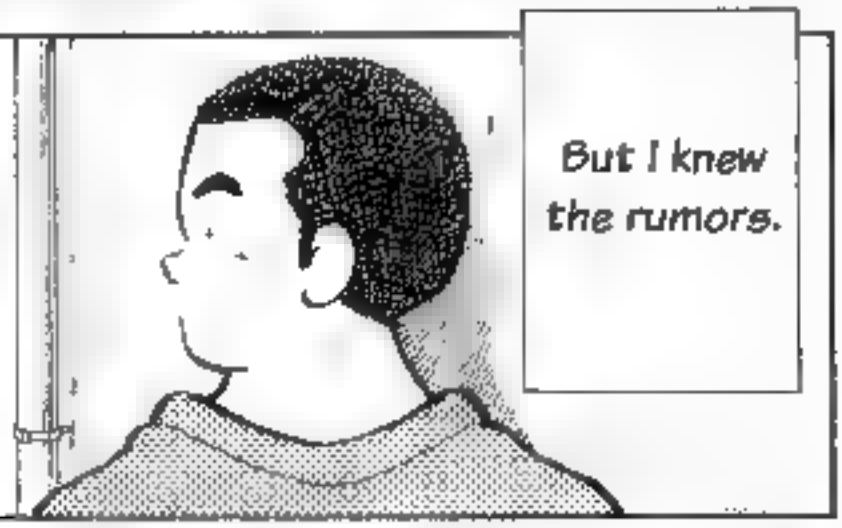



DON'T CHICKEN OUT!
WE'LL BE WAITING BEHIND THE SHRINE AFTER SCHOOL.

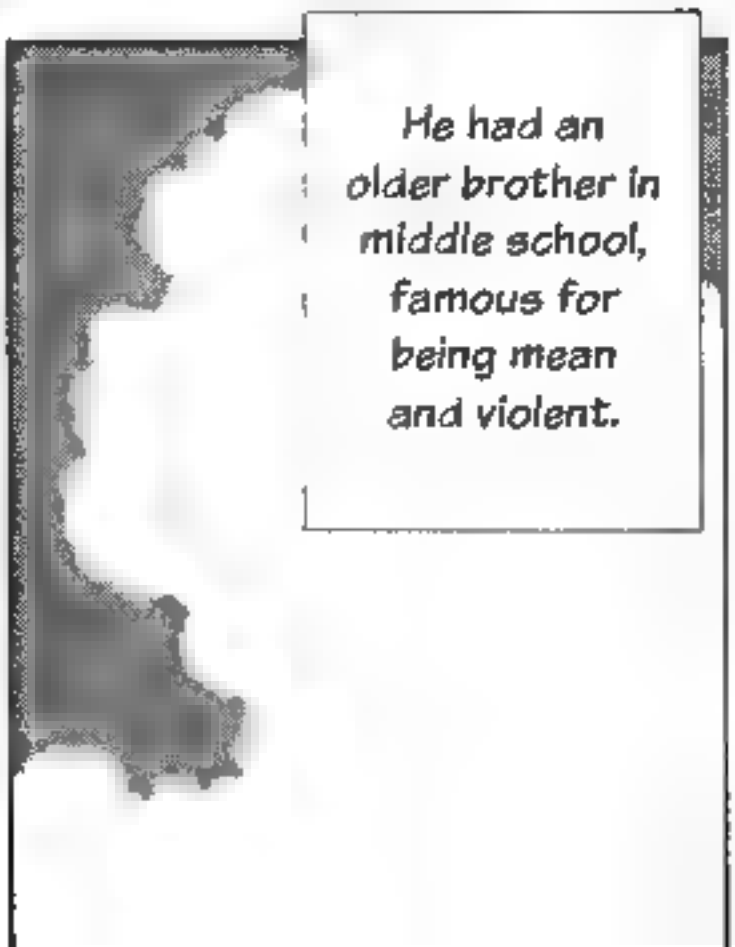
YOU TELL KAMISATO!
TELL HIM IT HAS TO BE A 2-ON-2 TAG TEAM MATCH NEXT TIME!

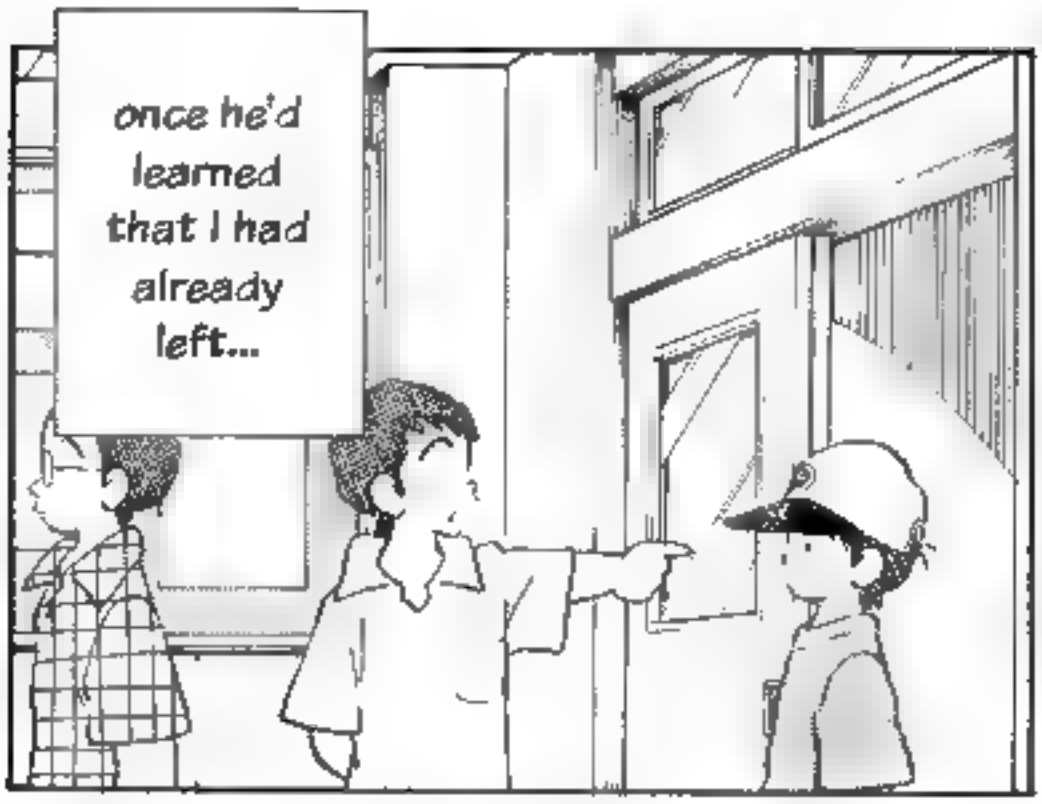
BIG
YOU'RE A TURKEY!
I'M NOT A CHICKEN!

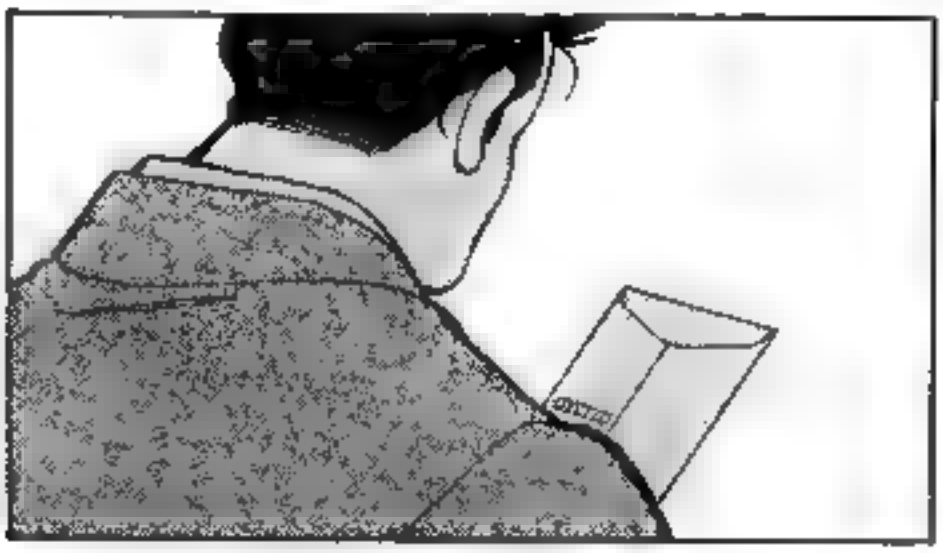


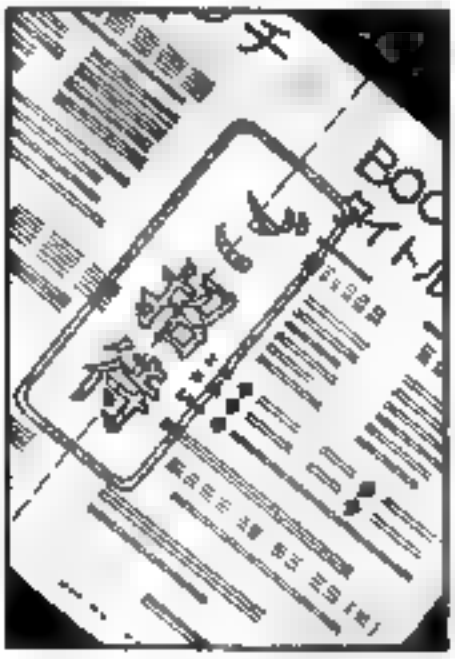

But I knew the rumors.

I left school early.
A COLD?

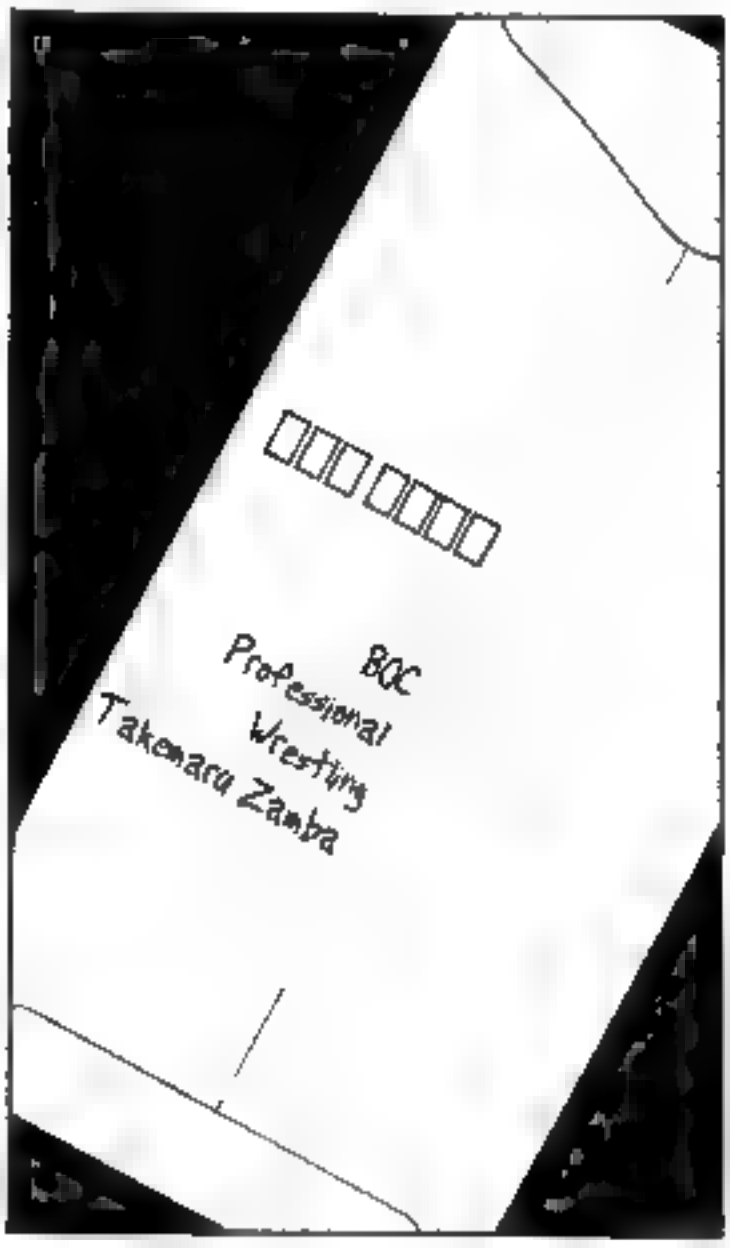

He had an older brother in middle school, famous for being mean and violent.







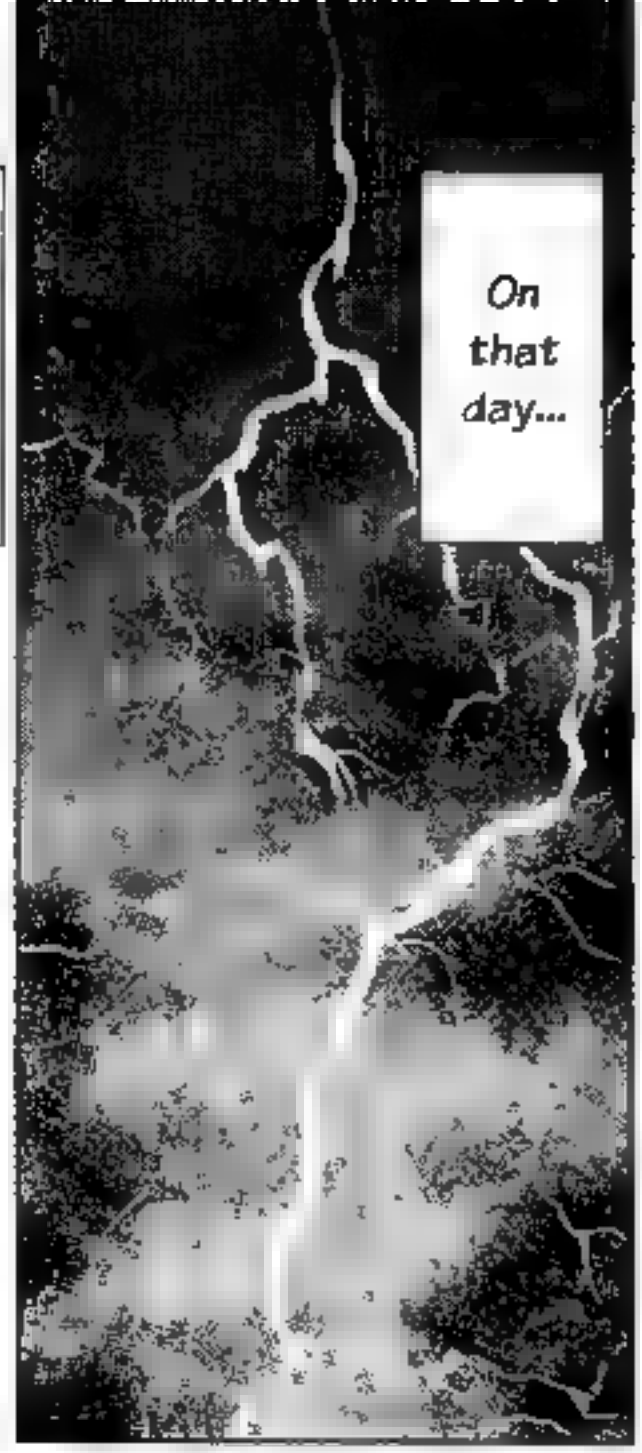
(Ticket Invitation)



Back then, we idolized those invincible heroes.

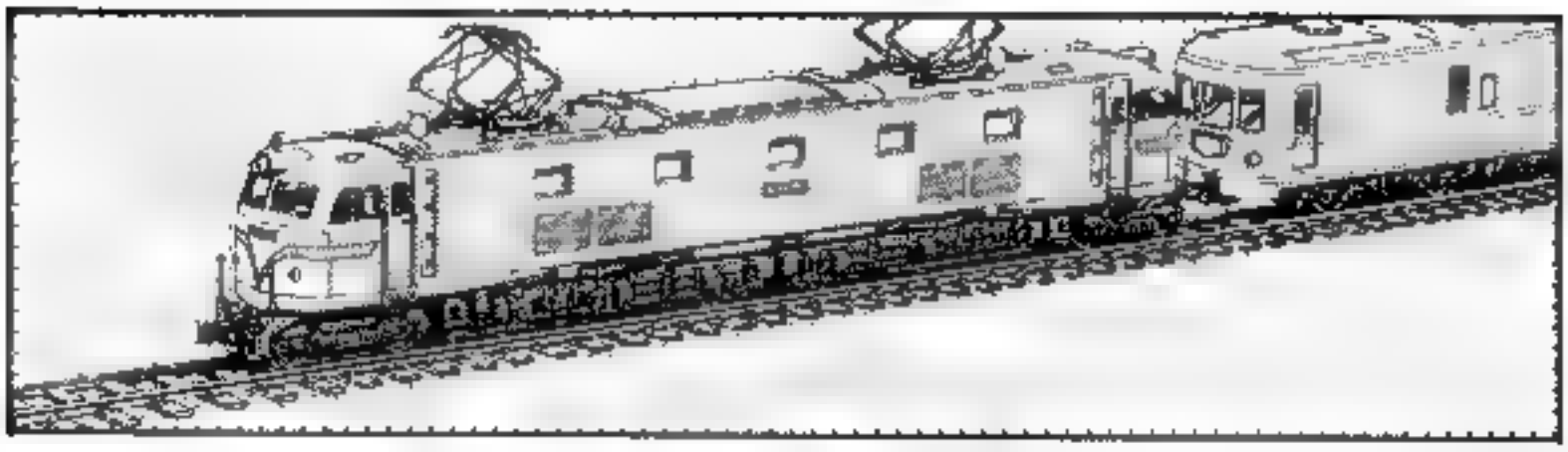
hownk

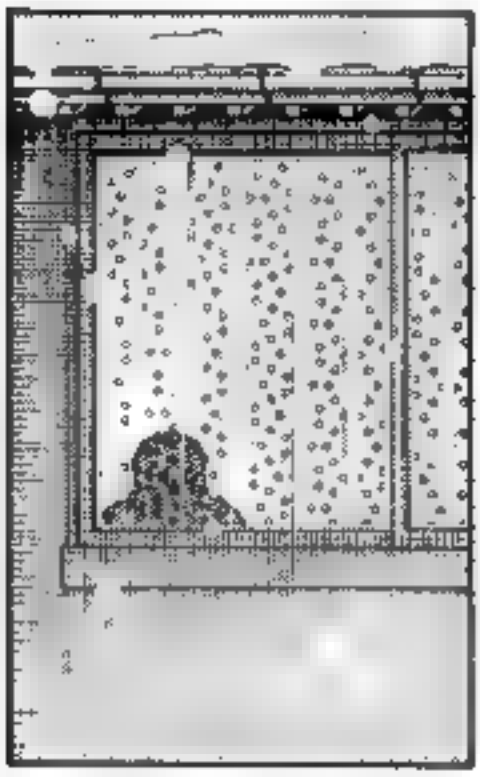
Takemaru fought on his own,
lost, and was hurt terribly...
...and then,


On that day...

...and then,

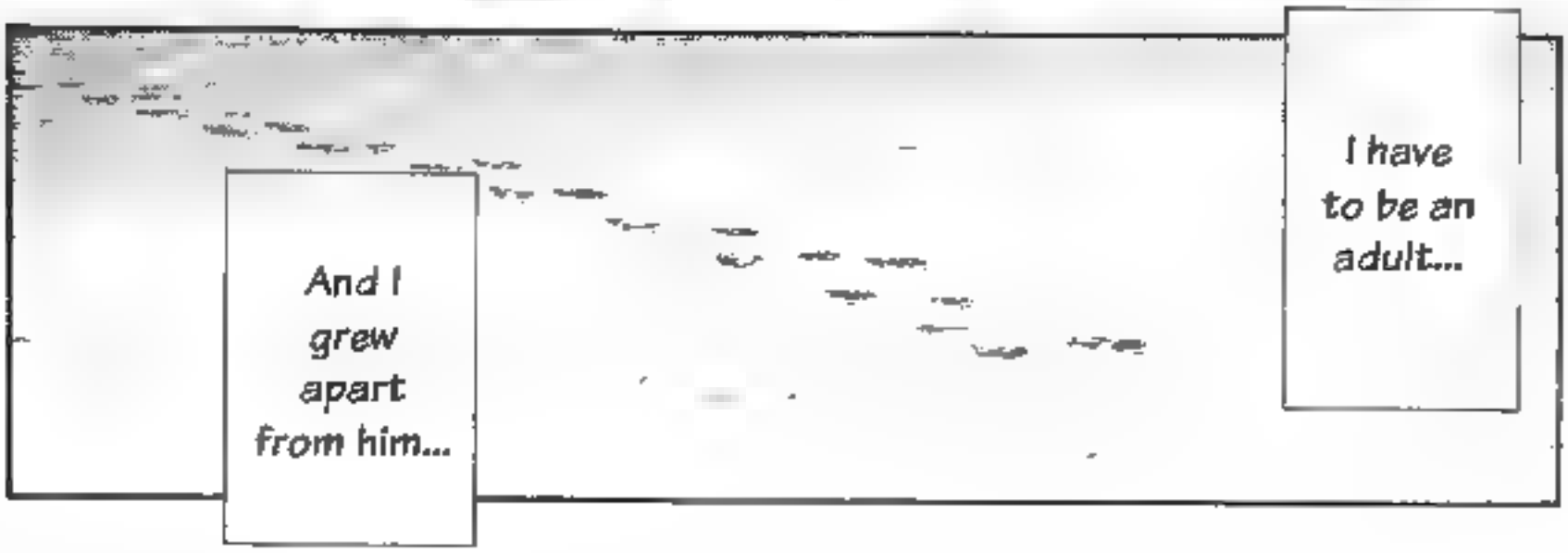
SEVE
having never "lost" myself...





BIG

a grown-up doesn't fight.
I made excuses to myself, saying,

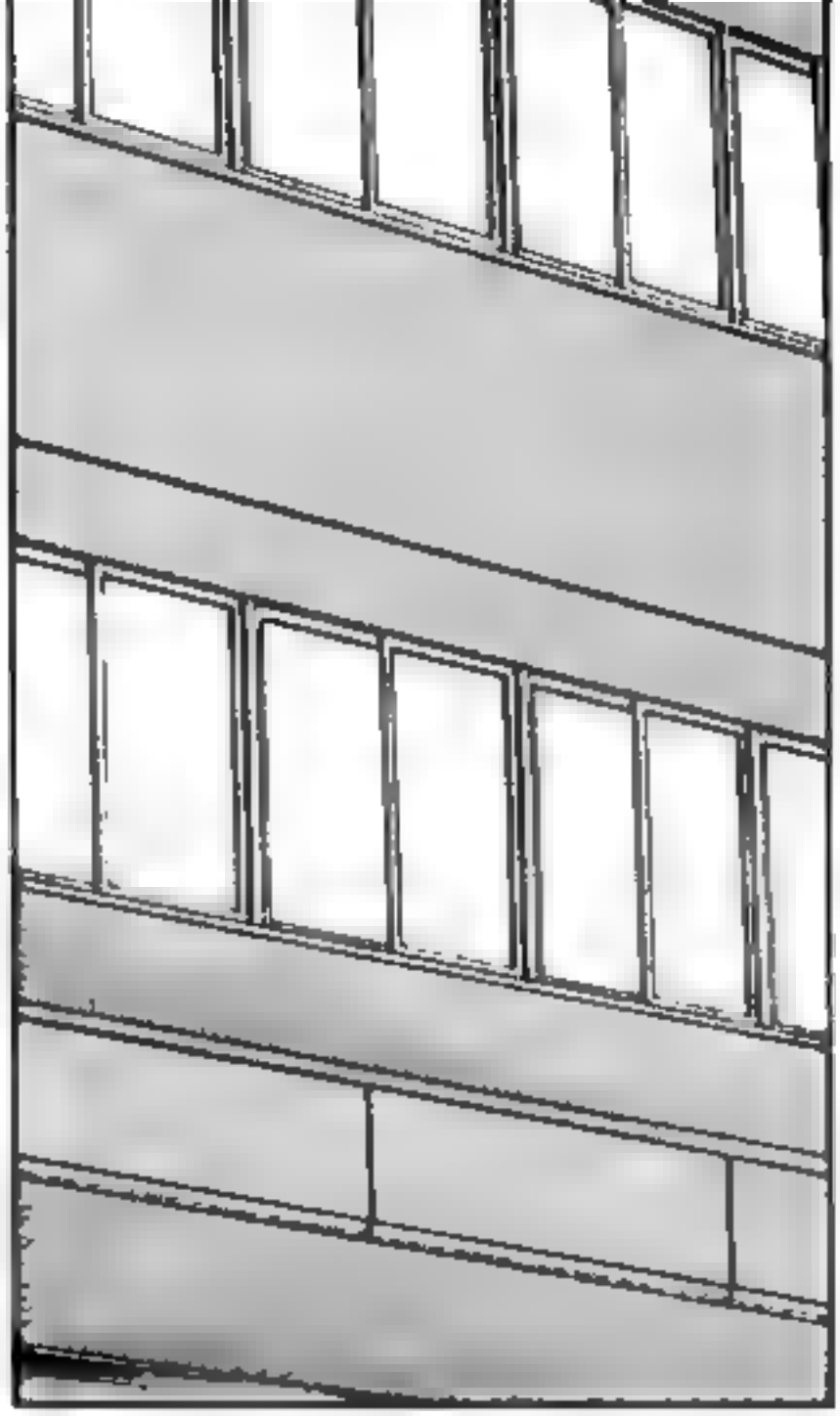

And I grew apart from him...
I have to be an adult...

CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG

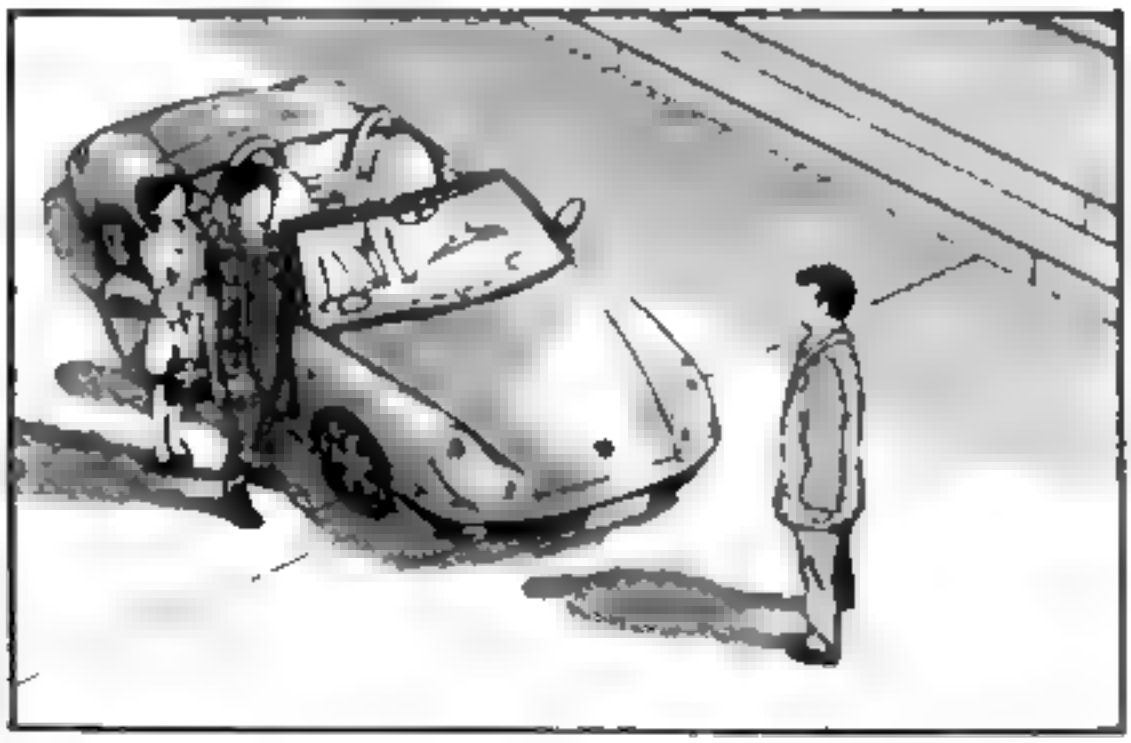
RE
A
S
H

NO, I'VE KNOWN HIM. . FOR YEARS. .
HE'D NEVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THIS...
WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM?!
ARE-
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
HUH?
HE ALWAYS KNEW..
THAT I WOULD COME HERE TO GET BEAT UP, SOMETIME...

HERE WE GO.
RIGHT THIS WAY
KCHAK



I CAN'T PULL THE CAR OUT WITH YOU STANDING IN FRONT OF IT



YES?

MS. TAKA-SAKA

YES,
I KNOW.

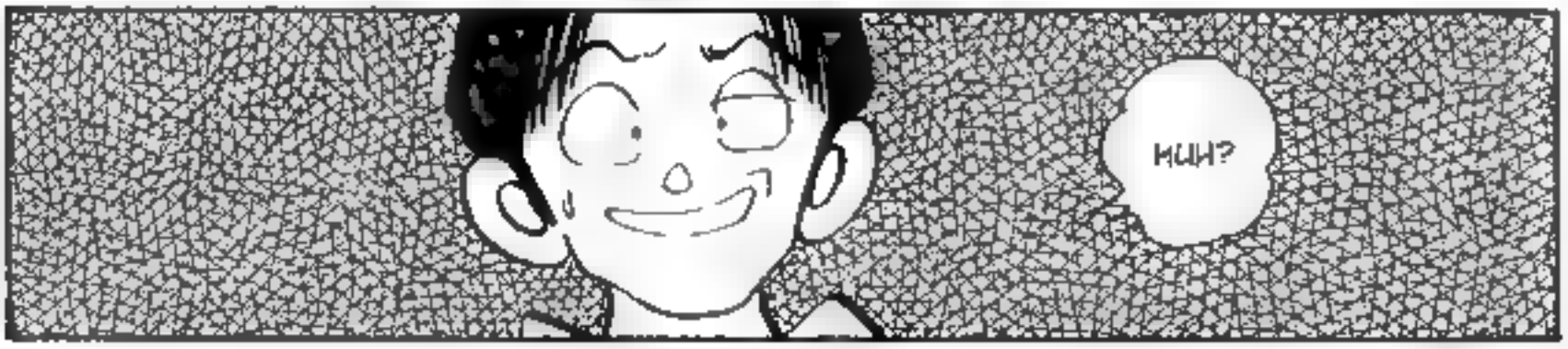
TODAY IS MY BIRTHDAY.

OHMURA'S TEMPURA UDON IS AVAILABLE UNTIL 8.

WE CAN STILL MAKE IT IF WE LEAVE NOW.

WAIT A MINUTE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

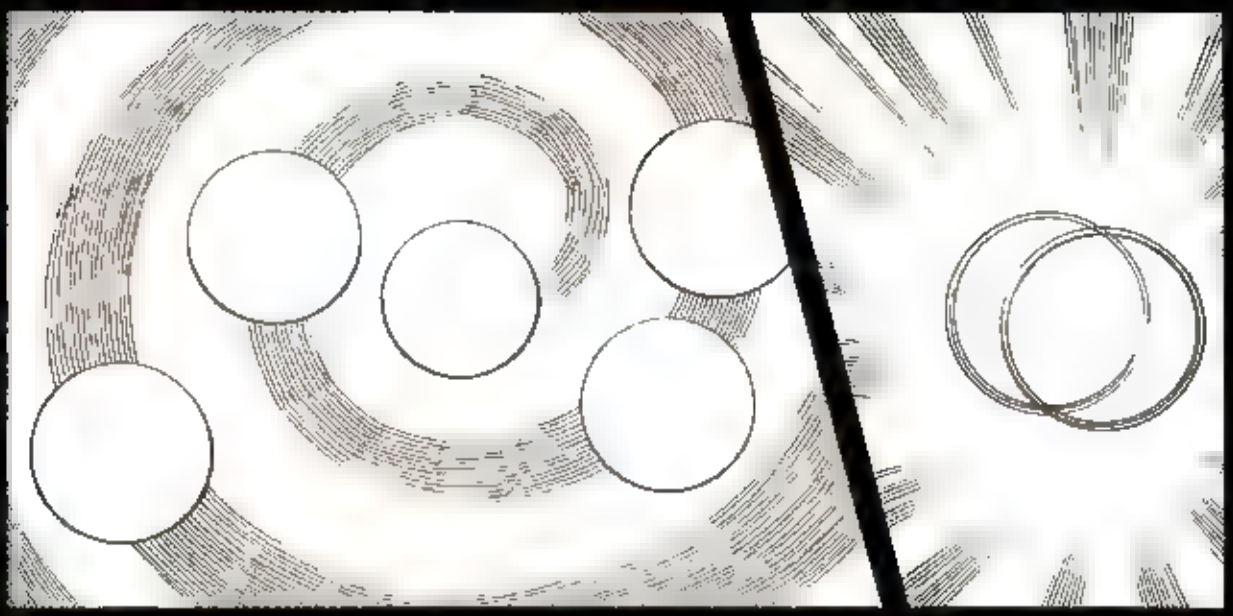
K-KAMI-SATO!



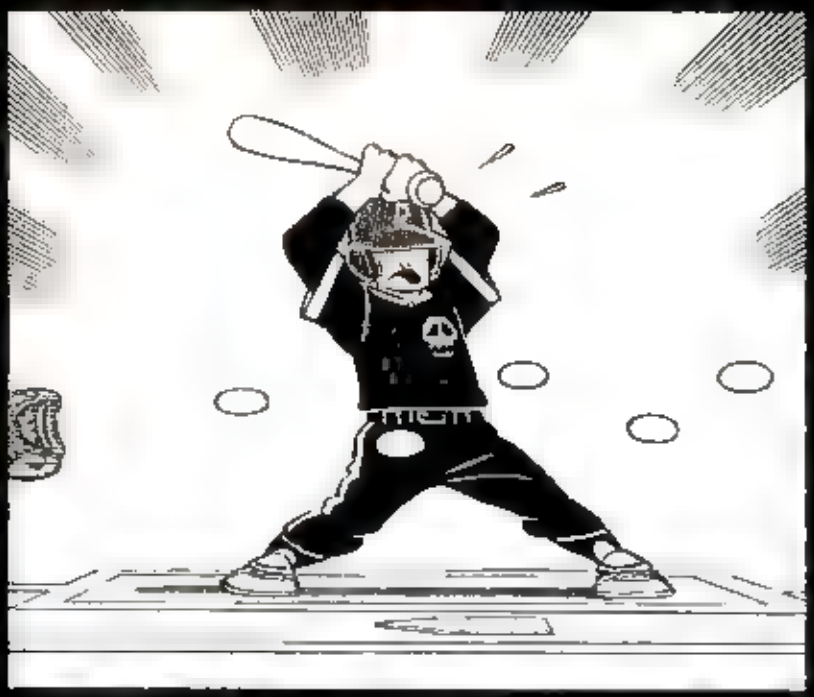
– Chapter 3 End –

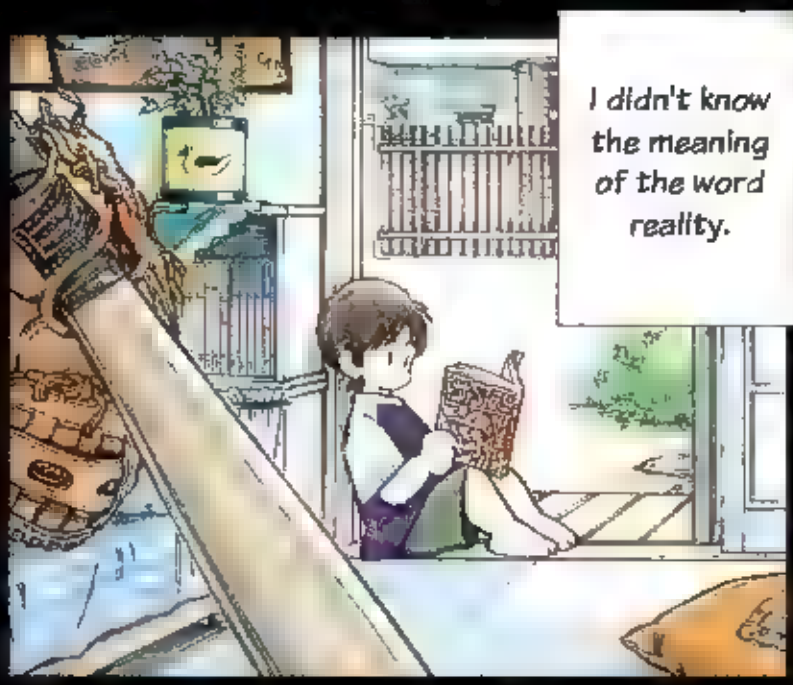
CHAPTER
4
SKY-BLUE
ARCH

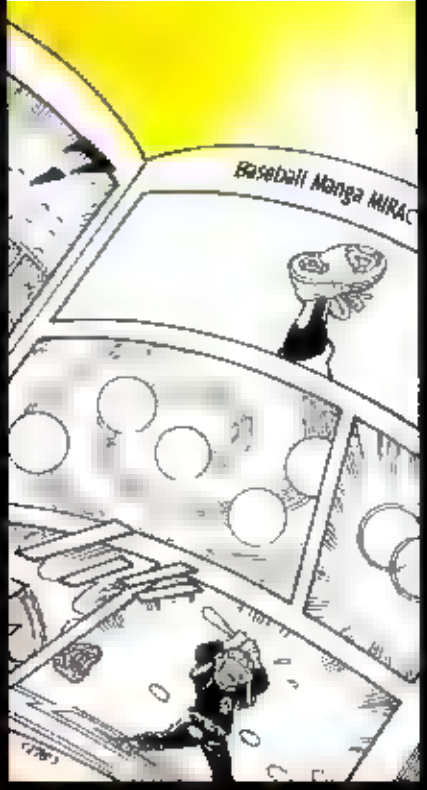
Back then...

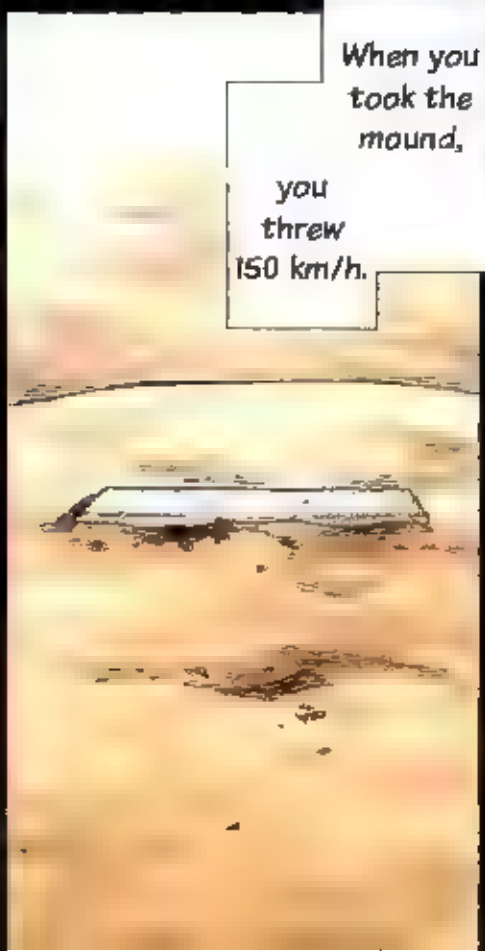


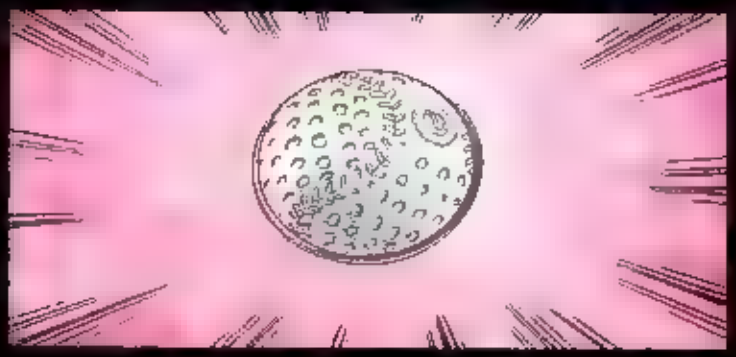
BANG



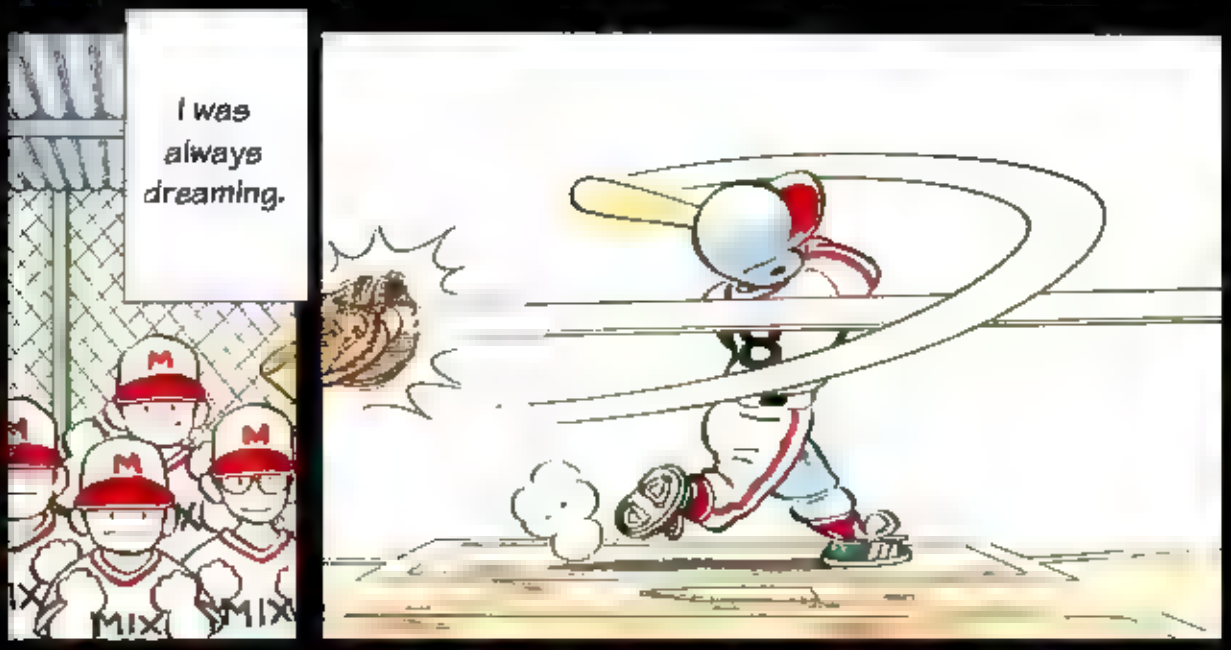






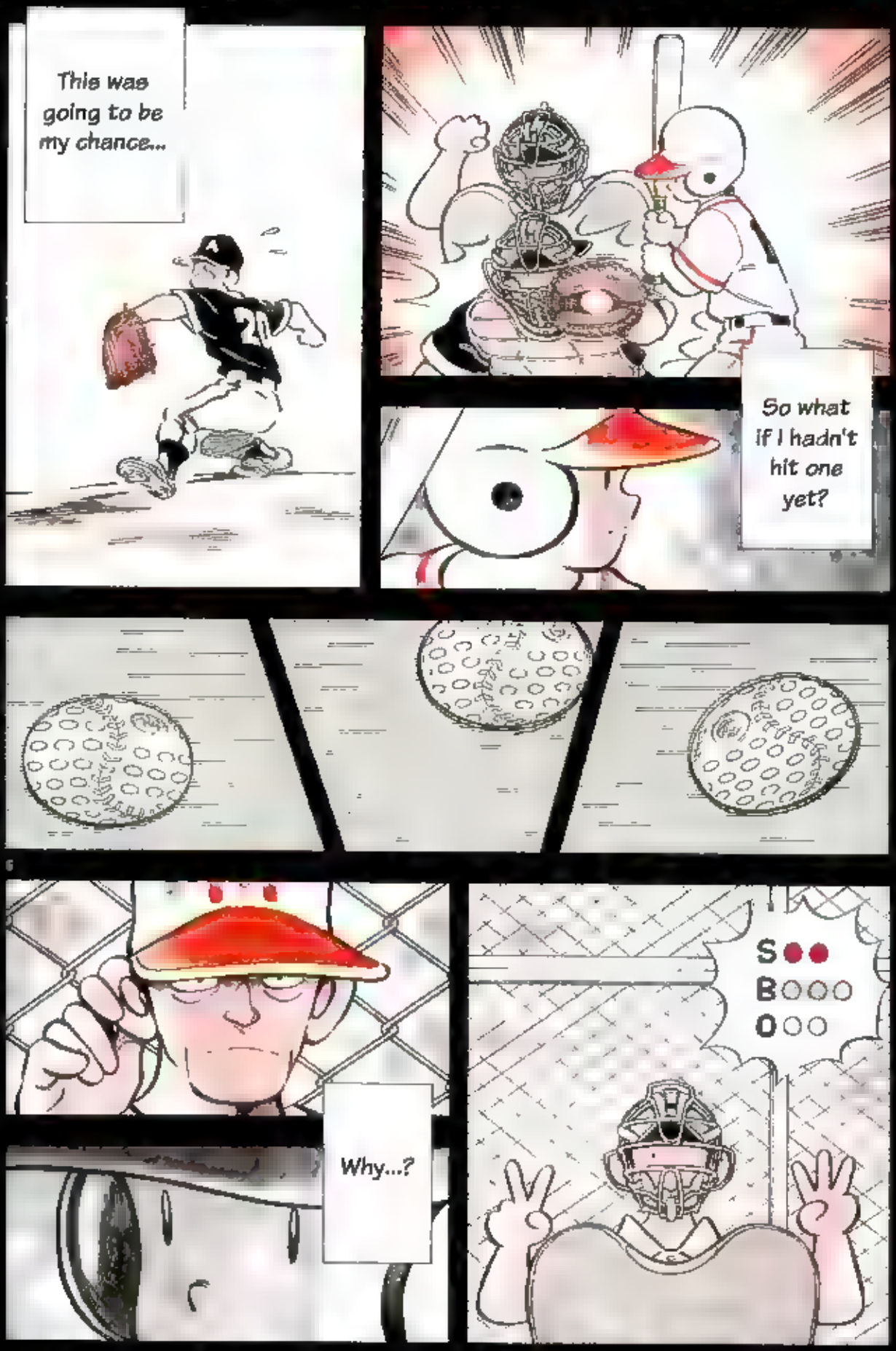


Scanned by Athanor
Translated by Stephen
Edited by Pat

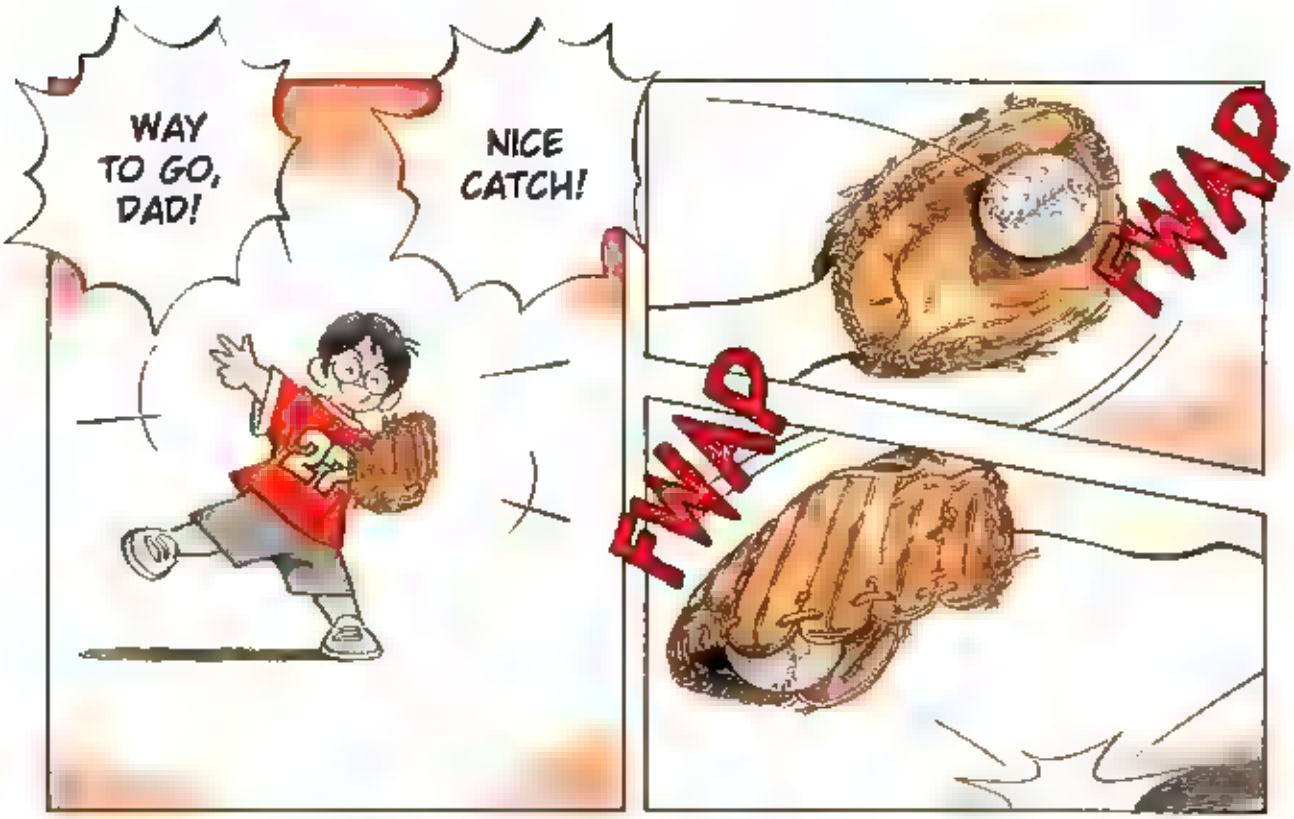


	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Vitamin A	0	0	0	2	0	0	0		
Mix	0	0	0	0	0	1			

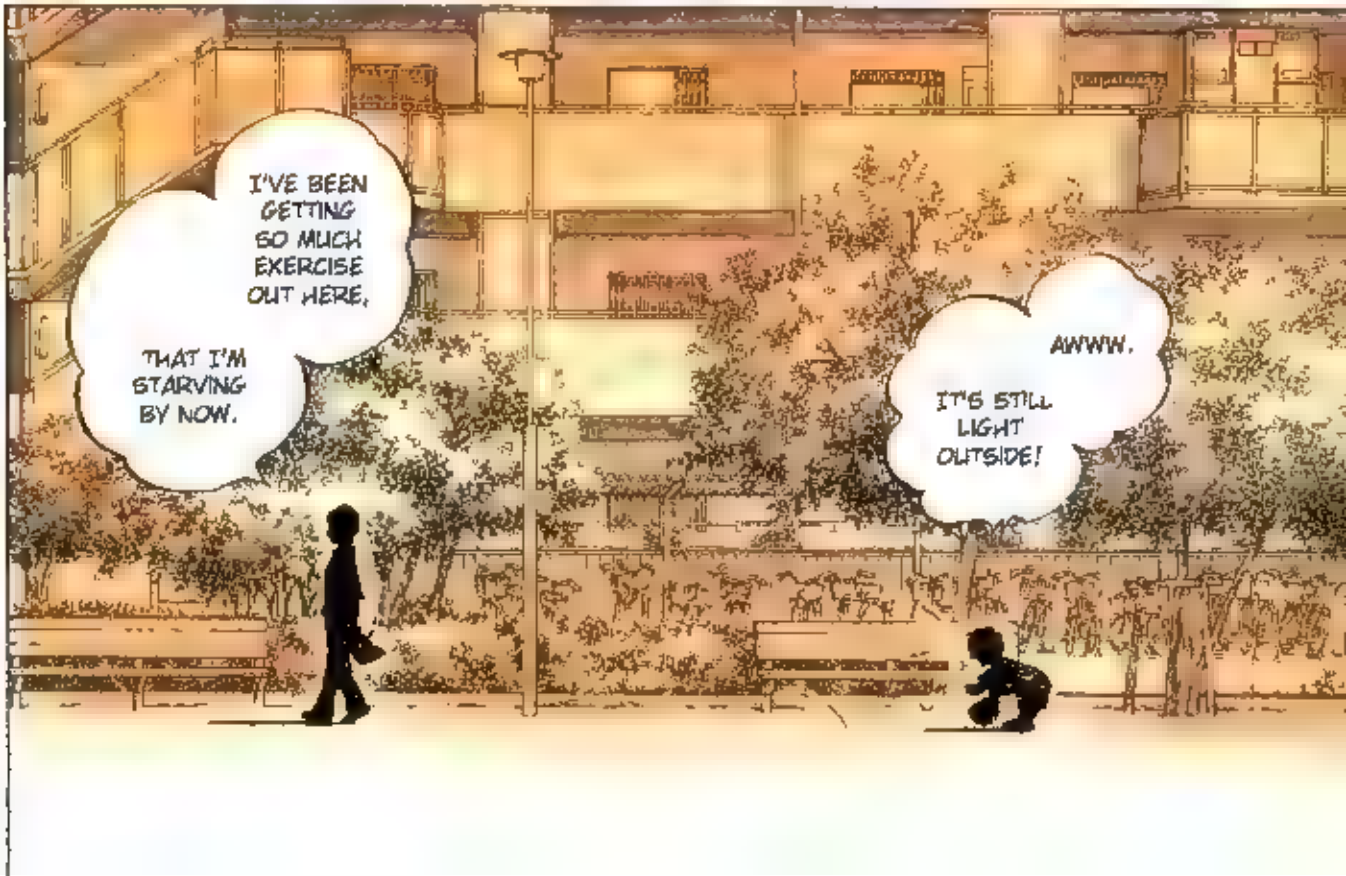
At any time.
SBO
Why don't the grown-ups believe in me?


This was going to be my chance...
So what if I hadn't hit one yet?
Why...?
S●●
B○○○
O○○

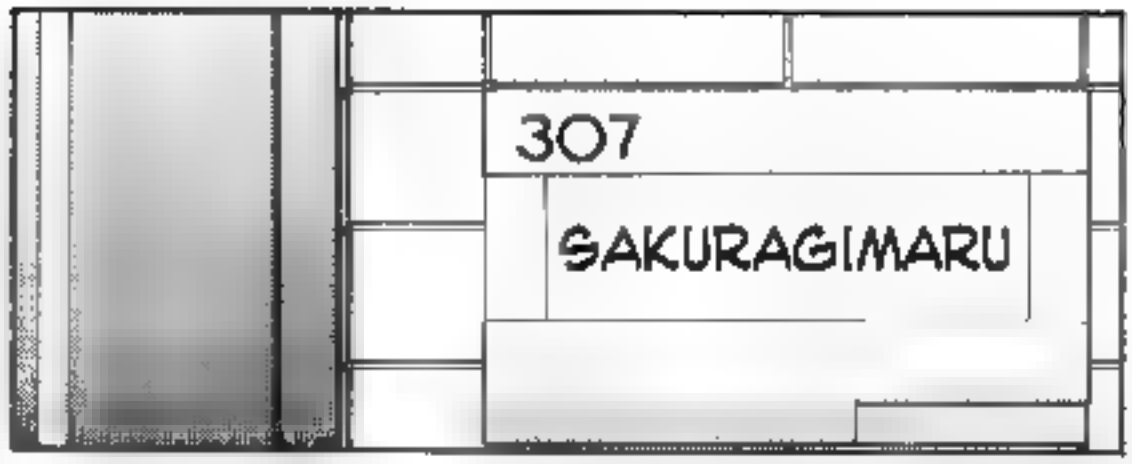
Why...?

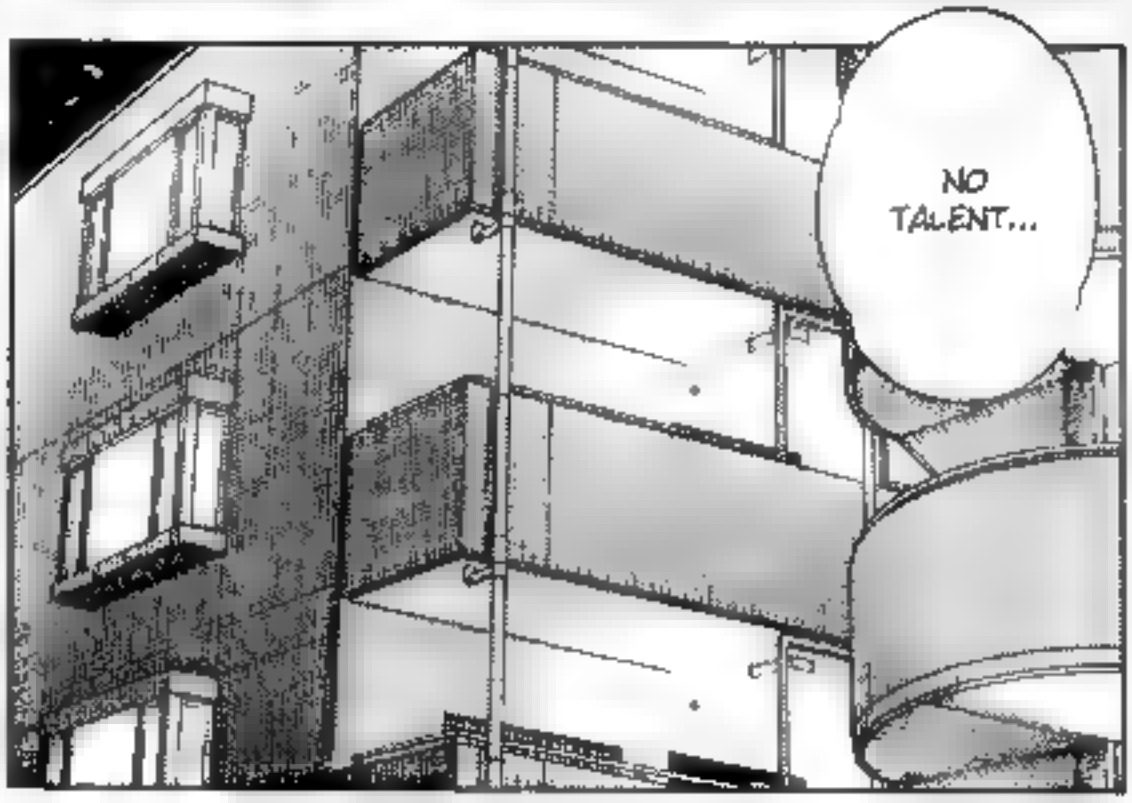

WAY TO GO, DAD!
NICE CATCH!
FWAP
FWAP

BACK INSIDE.
OKAY HIROKI, TIME FOR DINNER.


I'VE BEEN GETTING SO MUCH EXERCISE OUT HERE,
THAT I'M STARVING BY NOW.
AWWW.
IT'S STILL LIGHT OUTSIDE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


307
SAKURAGIMARU

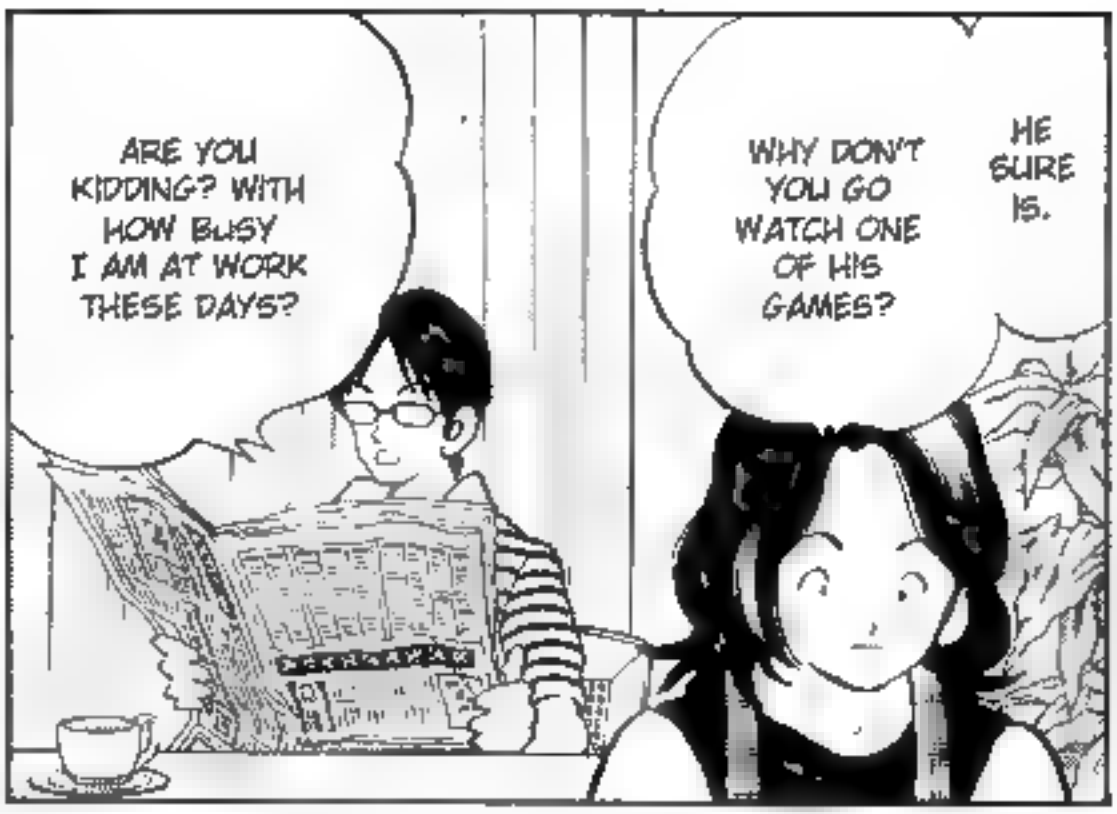

NO TALENT...

BUT HE JUST DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER AT IT.
I'VE BEEN PLAYING CATCH WITH HIM SINCE HE WAS IN KINDERGARTEN.

ON THAT LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM?
IS HE STILL PLAYING
ZZZ
BUT YOU KNOW HOW MUCH HE LOVES BASEBALL.

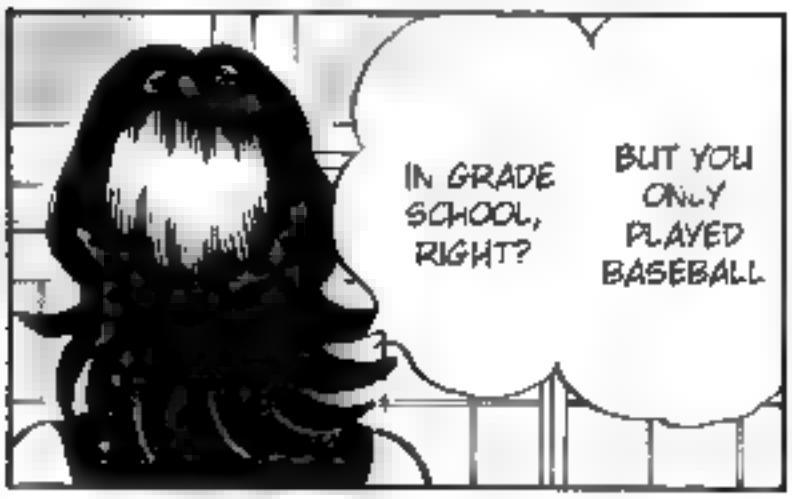
THUMP
OH, YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT HIROKI?
HIROKI

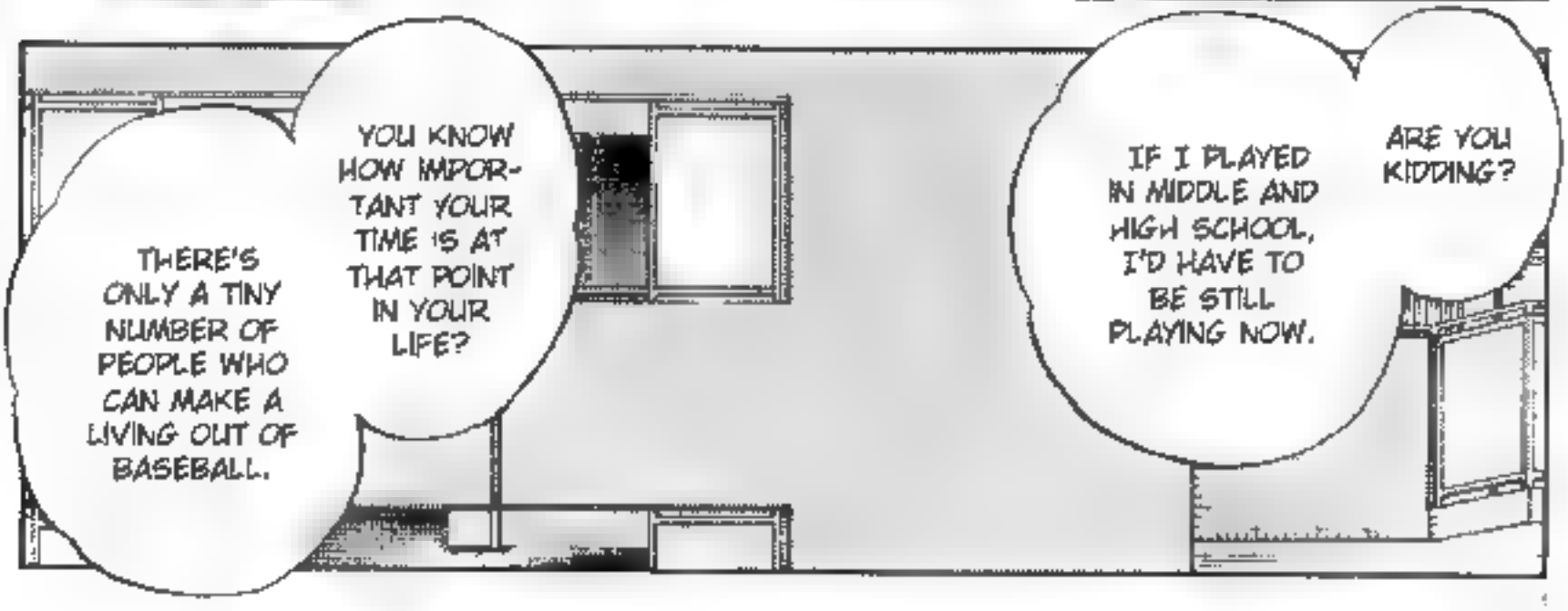
POOR GUY OUGHTA FIND A NEW HOBBY, I THINK.
BESIDES, WITH THAT COACH AT THE HELM...


ARE YOU KIDDING? WITH HOW BUSY I AM AT WORK THESE DAYS?
WHY DON'T YOU GO WATCH ONE OF HIS GAMES?
HE SURE IS.

IT WAS THE TRUTH.
WASN'T BRAG-GING.

ONCE YOU SAID IT ENOUGH, HE TOOK IT SERIOUSLY.
"DADDY WAS THE PITCHER AND CLEAN-UP HITTER!"
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE YOU BRAGGED ABOUT IT.


IN GRADE SCHOOL, RIGHT?
BUT YOU ONLY PLAYED BASEBALL


THERE'S ONLY A TINY NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO CAN MAKE A LIVING OUT OF BASEBALL.
YOU KNOW HOW IMPOR-TANT YOUR TIME IS AT THAT POINT IN YOUR LIFE?
IF I PLAYED IN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL, I'D HAVE TO BE STILL PLAYING NOW.
ARE YOU KIDDING?

THAT'S HOW I'M THE BUSINESS MANAGER AT MY AGE.

SHWAP

I WAS ALWAYS THE TYPE TO CALMLY ASSESS MY FUTURE TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION.

IT'S BASICALLY JUST A WASTE OF YOUR LIFE OTHERWISE.

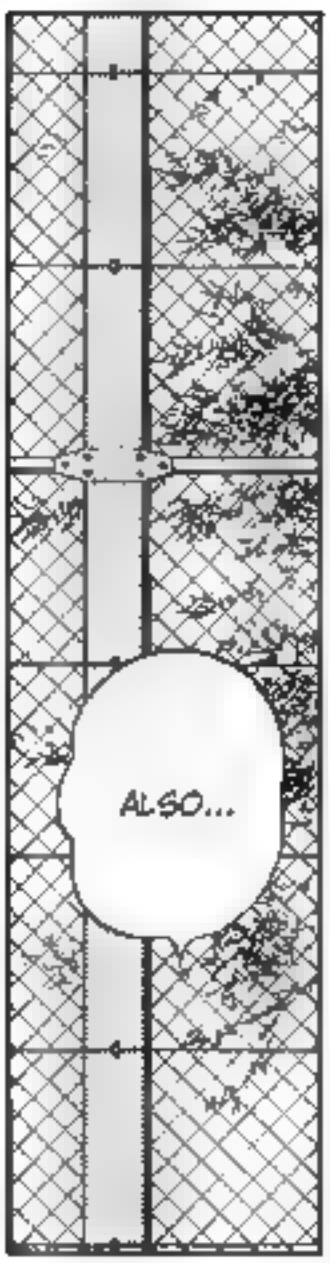
tick tick

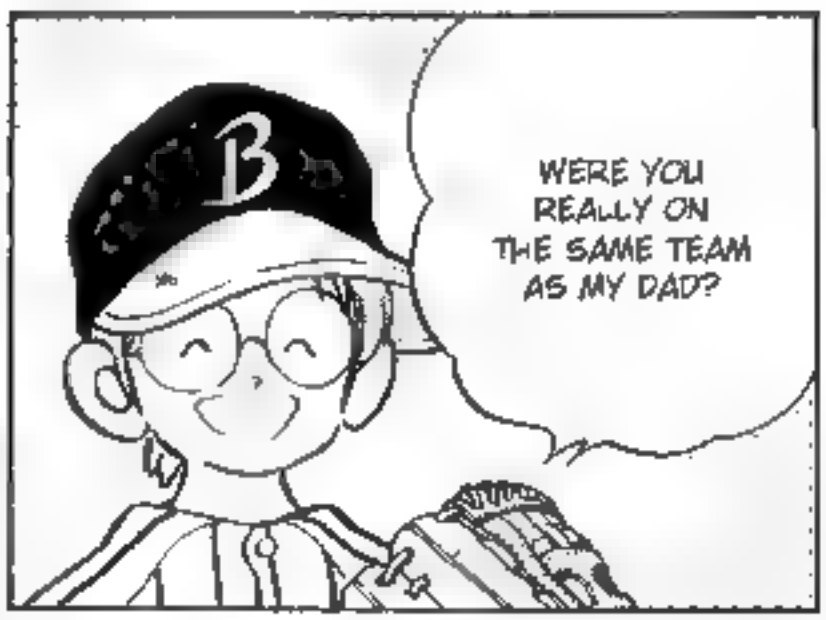
YOU MEAN HIROKI'S COACH?

SOMEHOW I FIND MYSELF COMING INTO CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO IS WASTING THEIR LIFE AGAIN.

AND YET...

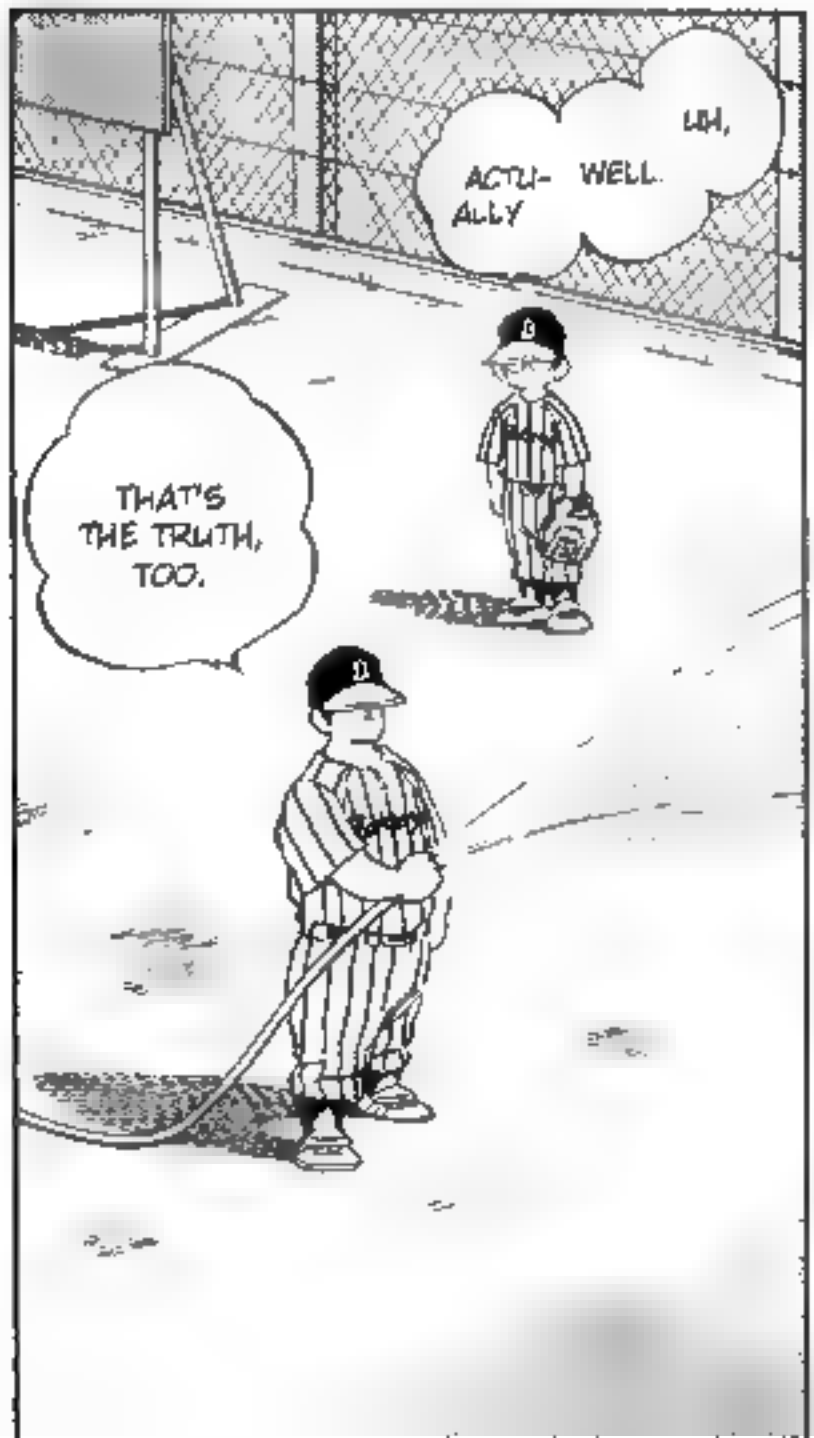
IS THAT TRUE, COACH?


ALSO...

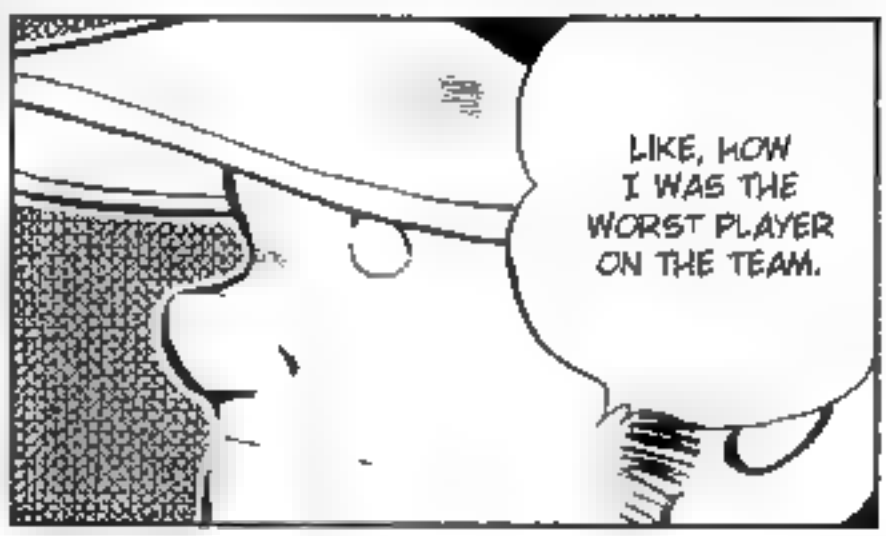

WERE YOU REALLY ON THE SAME TEAM AS MY DAD?

UM...
NEVER MIND.

IT'S THE TRUTH.


UH, ACTU- WELL. ALLY
THAT'S THE TRUTH, TOO.

HUH?
YOUR DAD TOLD YOU MORE THAN THAT, DIDN'T HE?

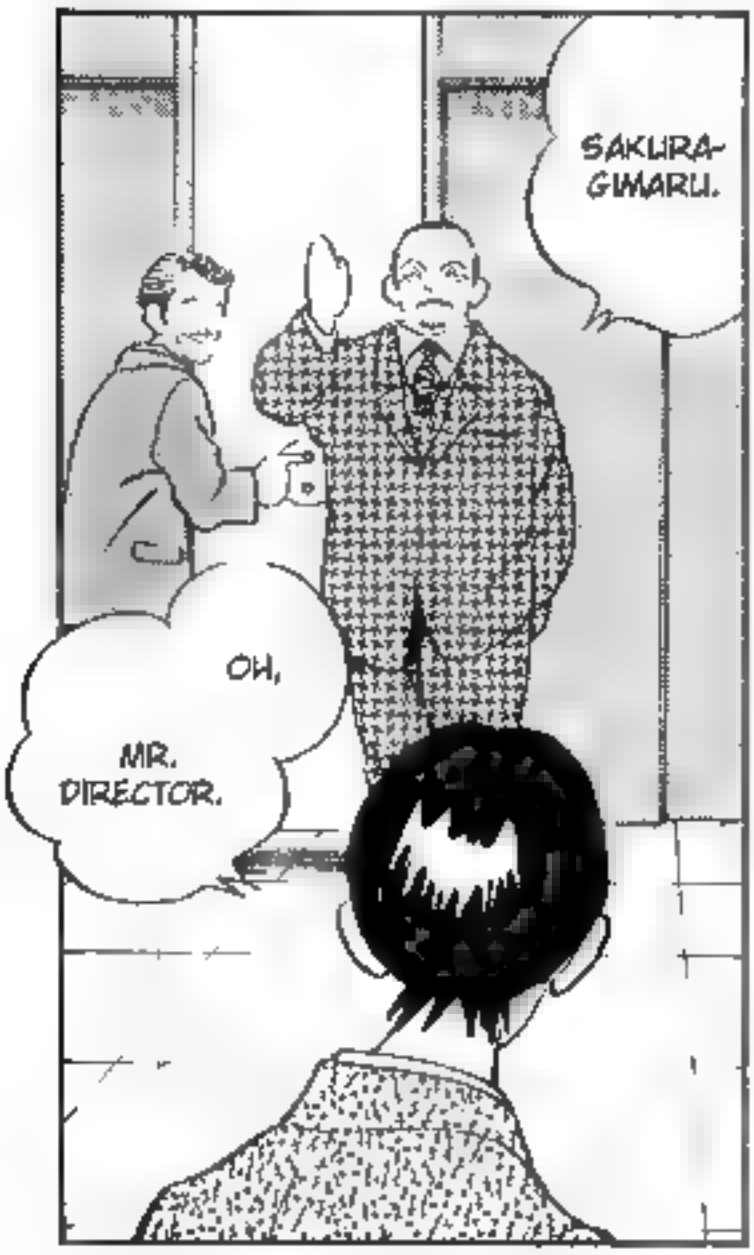

LIKE, HOW I WAS THE WORST PLAYER ON THE TEAM.

GIVEN THE PERCENTAGE OF TIMES I EVEN MADE CONTACT, MUCH LESS GOT A HIT, I DON'T BLAME THE COACH.
OF COURSE,
I WAS A REAL SMALL KID, SO WHEN THEY HAD A WILD PITCHER...
IN MY CASE, I BARELY EVER GOT THE CHANCE TO SWING THE BAT.
I'D BE GOING UP THERE TO GET A WALK.
JUST LIKE ME, HUH?
YOU'LL BE JUST AS GOOD AS HIM.
YOUR DAD WAS THE PITCHER AND CLEAN-UP HITTER, HIROKI.
NOT BY A LONG SHOT.
ALL I CAN BRAG ABOUT IS MY REFUSAL TO TAKE THE HINT.
AND EVEN THEN, ONLY IN MY FINAL YEAR.
I ONLY GOT TO PLAY REGULARLY ONCE I WAS IN COLLEGE.
I WAS ON THE BENCH ALL THROUGH MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL.

BRING ME SOME WORTHWHILE DATA!
I NEED CONVINCING PROOF THAT THIS PRODUCT IS GOING TO SELL!

SUZUHAN
YOU IDIOT!
THIS ISN'T THE LOTTERY, DUNCE!

honnk


SAKURA-GIMARU.
OH, MR. DIRECTOR.

AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH A HIT?
SMACK
BUT MR. MANAGER,
IF WE PASS UP THIS PERFECT TIMING, OUR HOME RUN COULD END UP AS JUST A HIT...

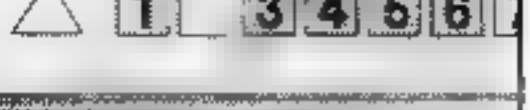
I WANT PERCENT-AGE!
BATTING AVERAGE IS BETTER THAN THE ONE BIG BLAST!

YOU BEAT OUT ALL THOSE LONG-DRIVERS AT THE RANGE...

YOU'RE A BEAST AT THE TEE, SIR.

I ALSO HEARD ABOUT YOUR RECENT DRIVING CONTEST!

ABOUT THE DEAL NEXT SUNDAY...



SIR?

I'M AFRAID SOMETHING'S COME UP, AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO ATTEND. HOW ABOUT SOME OTHER TIME?

YES, THE GOLFING WAS WHAT I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT.

YES SIR, I RECEIVED YOUR MESSAGE.

YOUR GRAND-SON'S GAME?

I'M GOING TO GO AND ROOT FOR HIM, 9 O'CLOCK SUNDAY MORNING.

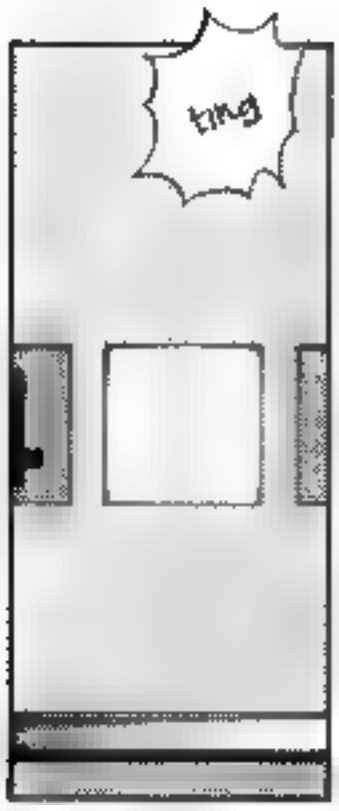
I COMPLETELY FORGOT THAT MY GRANDSON HAD A GAME COMING UP.

ACE AND CLEAN-UP HITTER...

HE'S THE ACE PITCHER AND CLEAN-UP HITTER FOR HIS TEAM.

BASEBALL!

WHAT DOES HE PLAY, SOCCER?

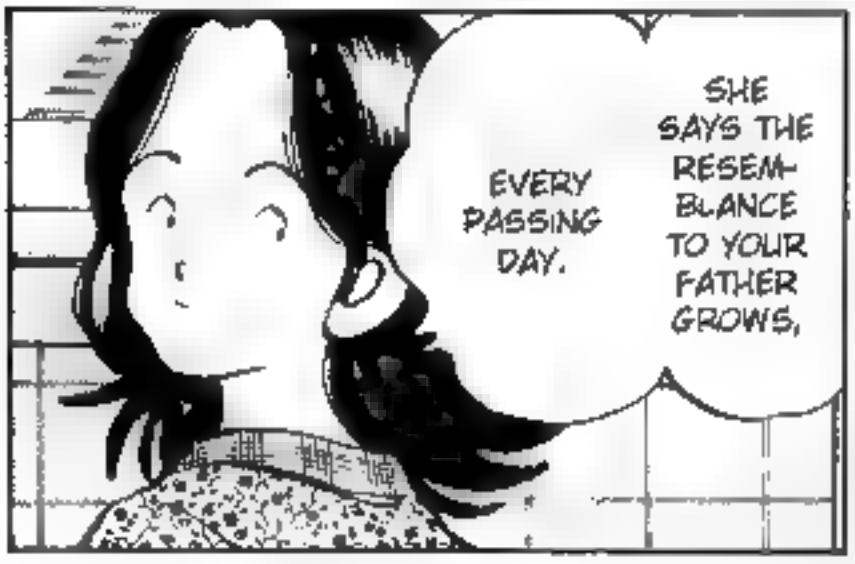

ting

A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK, HE MUST BE!
WHY, I WOULDN'T EXPECT ANY LESS!

...ER,
HMM?

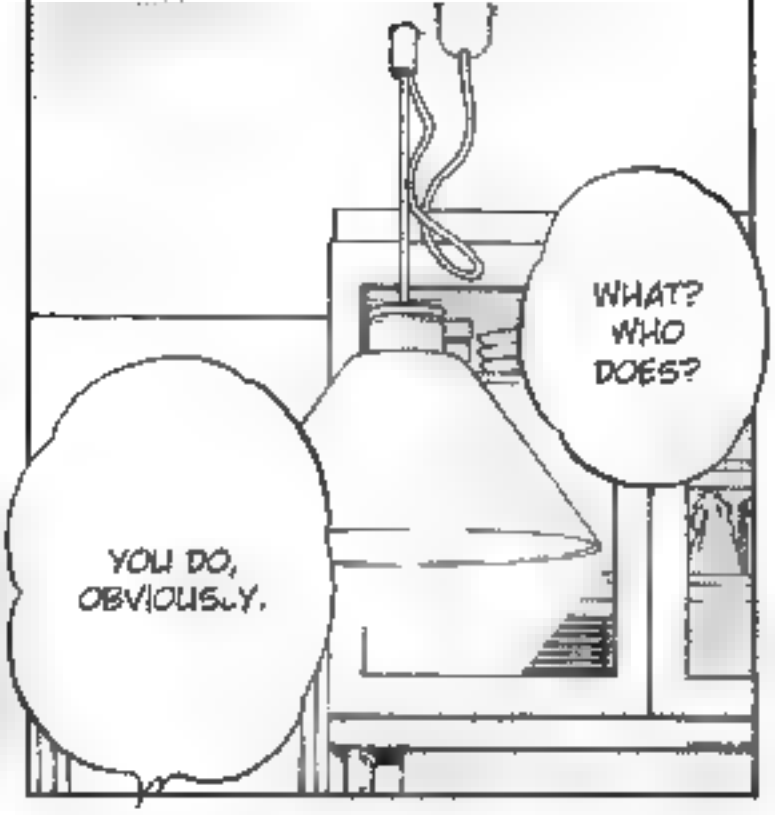
YOUR MOTHER STOPPED BY DURING THE DAY TODAY.
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT?

DIDN'T HE...?
YOUR FATHER DIED WHEN YOU WERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL,
FSHHH


EVERY PASSING DAY.
SHE SAYS THE RESEM-BLANCE TO YOUR FATHER GROWS,

MOM WAS HERE?

I'M NOT LIKE HIM.
NOT IN THE LEAST...
THAT'S CRAZY.

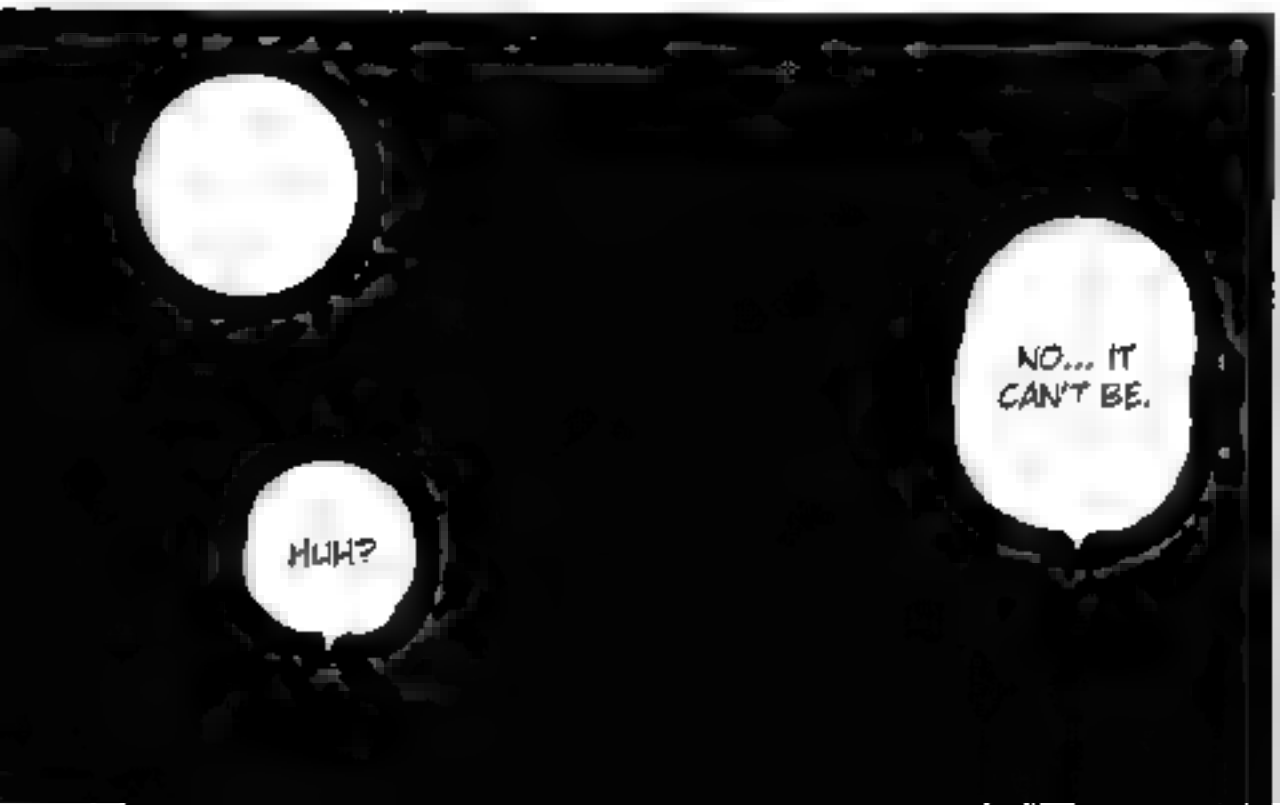

WHAT? WHO DOES?
YOU DO, OBVIOUSLY.

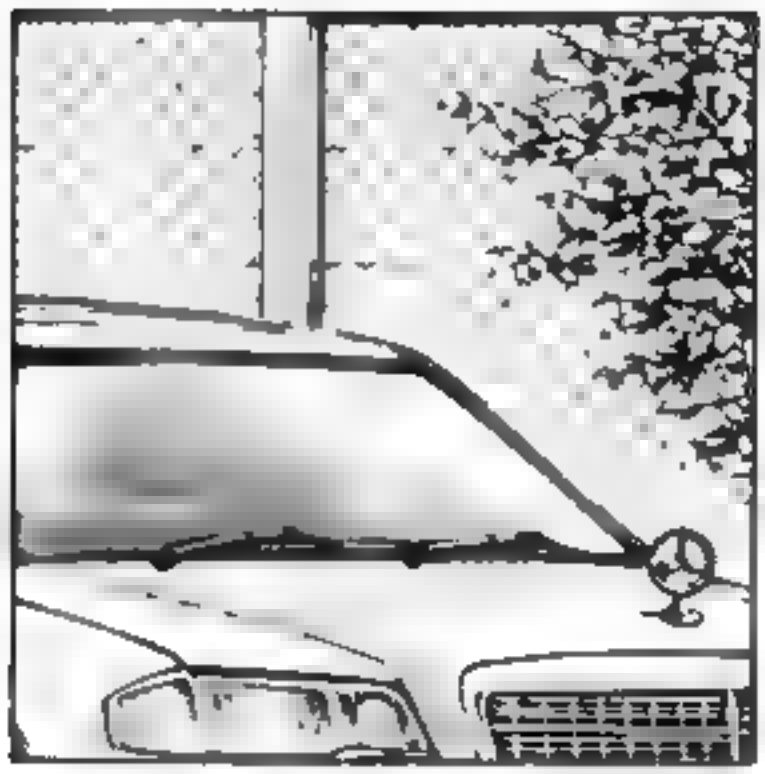
YOU CAN GO AND ROOT FOR HIROKI.
HE'LL BE DELIGHTED...
WELL, THAT'S PERFECT.
YEAH.
DIRECTOR COULDN'T MAKE IT.

OH, DIDN'T YOU SAY YOUR GOLF OUTING ON SUNDAY WAS CANCELLED?

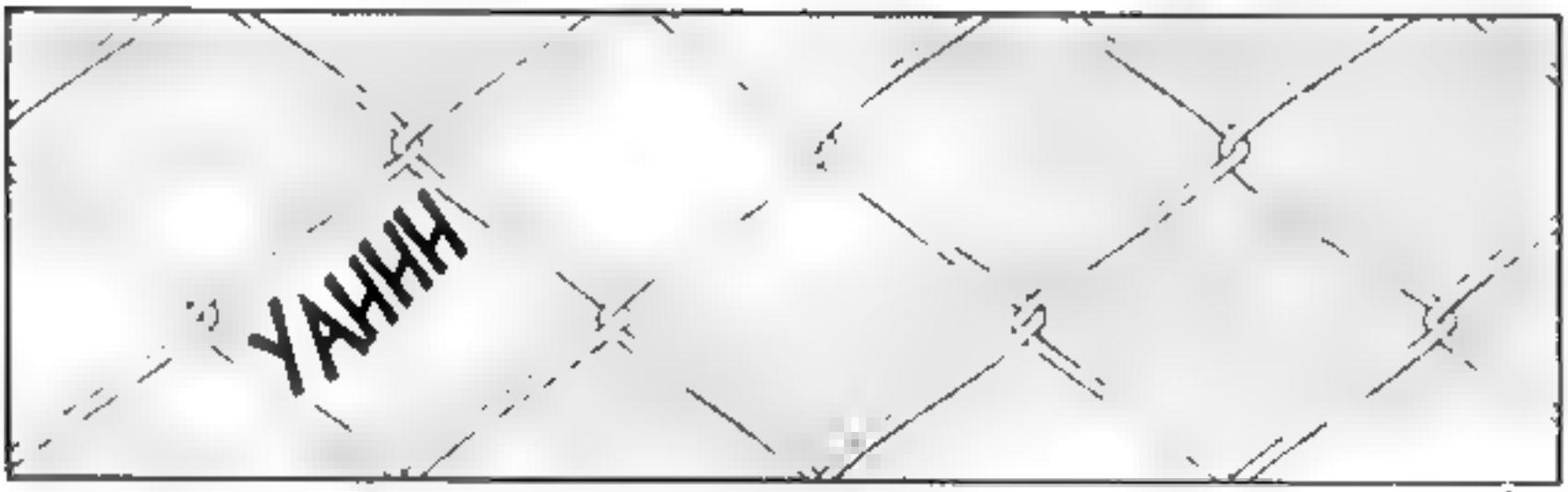
HE HAS A GAME.
AT 9 O'CLOCK...

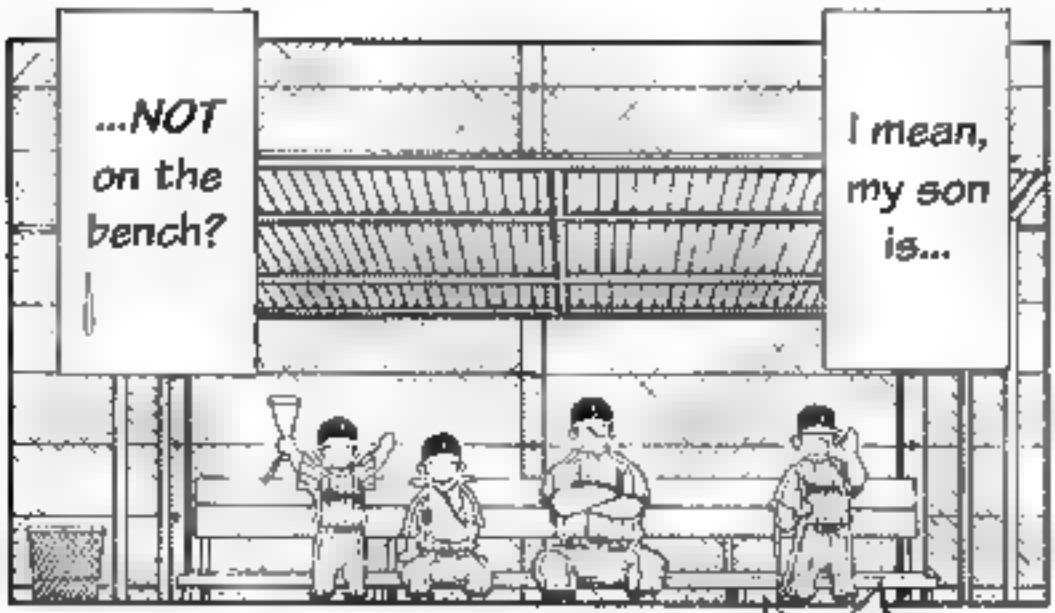
ROOT FOR HIM?


NO... IT CAN'T BE.
HUH?

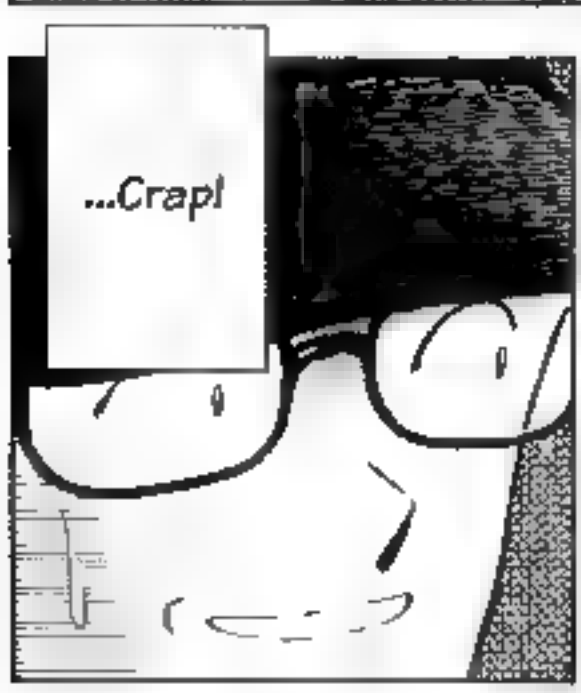


Sun-
day




...NOT on the bench?
I mean, my son is...

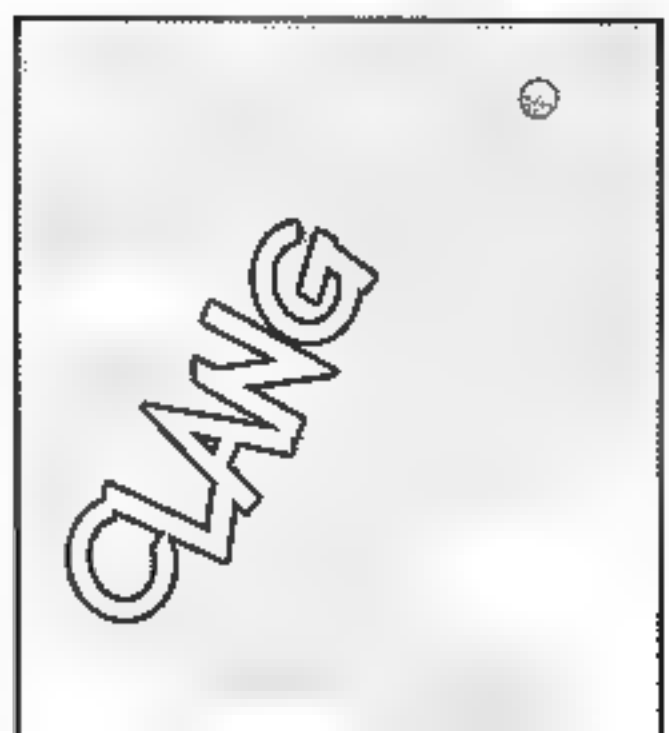
nothing to worry about...
...Well,

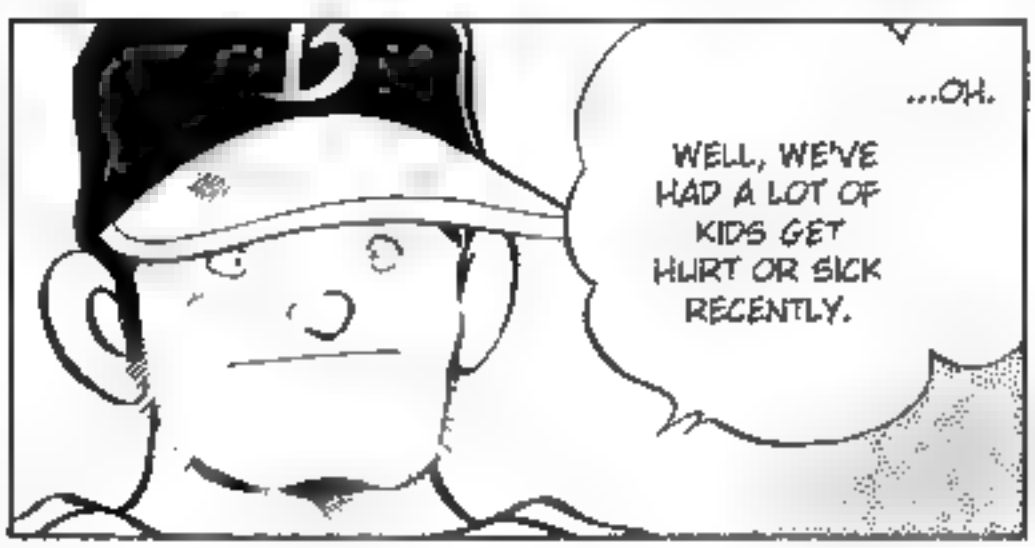

...Crap!

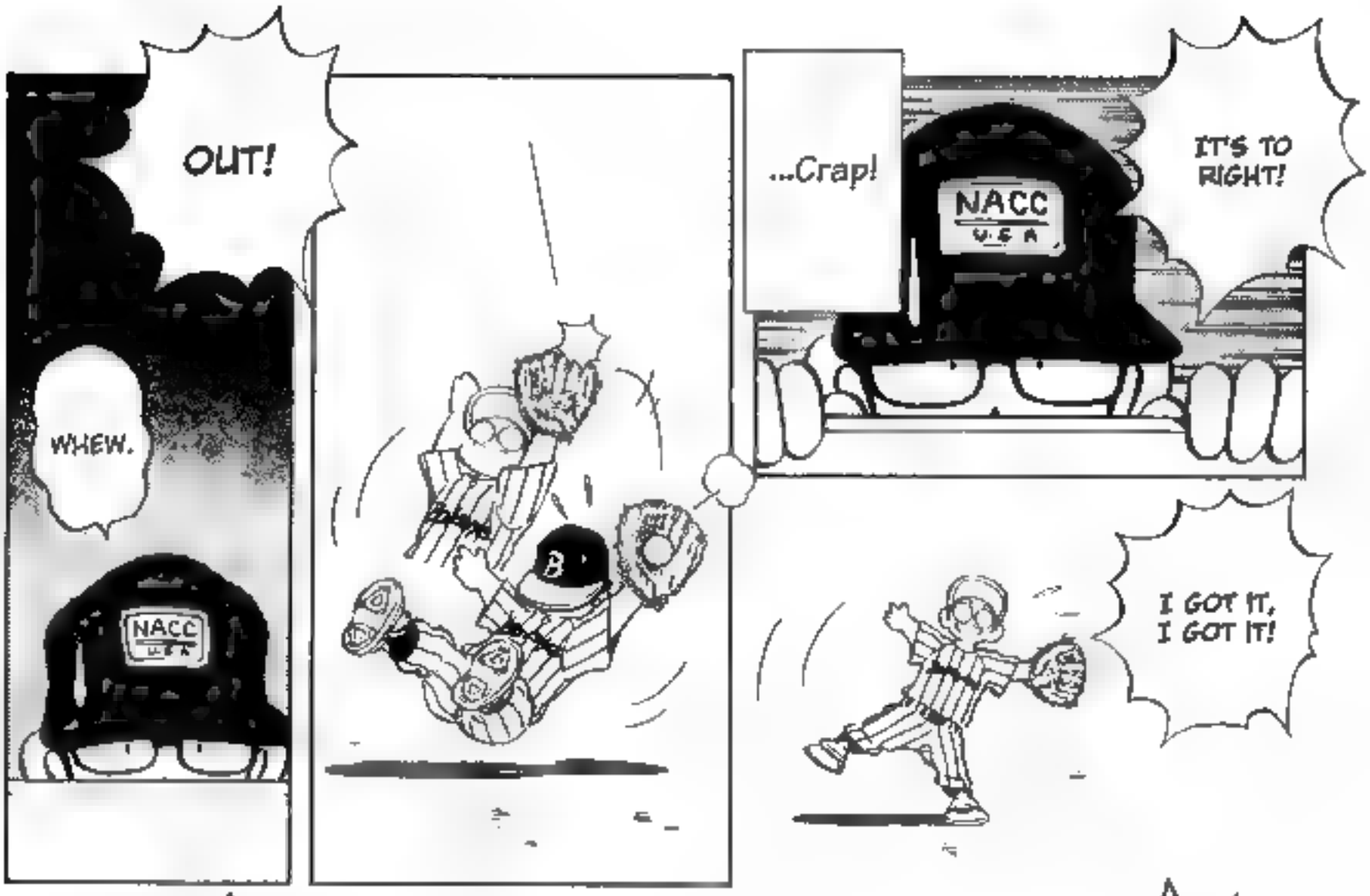
HIT IT RIGHT TO ME!
FWAP
FWAP
HEY, BATTER BATTER!
RIGHTFIELDER

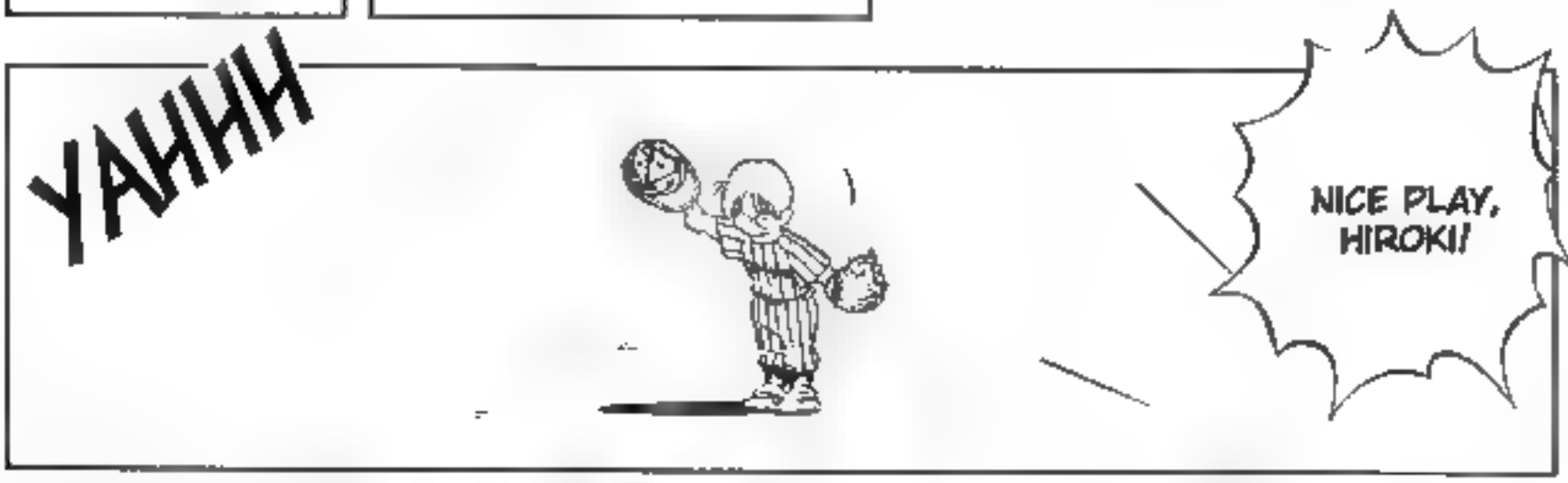
W-WHY IS MY SON IN THE STARTING LINEUP?!
HEY, SAKURAGI-MARU.
NICE TO SEE YA.

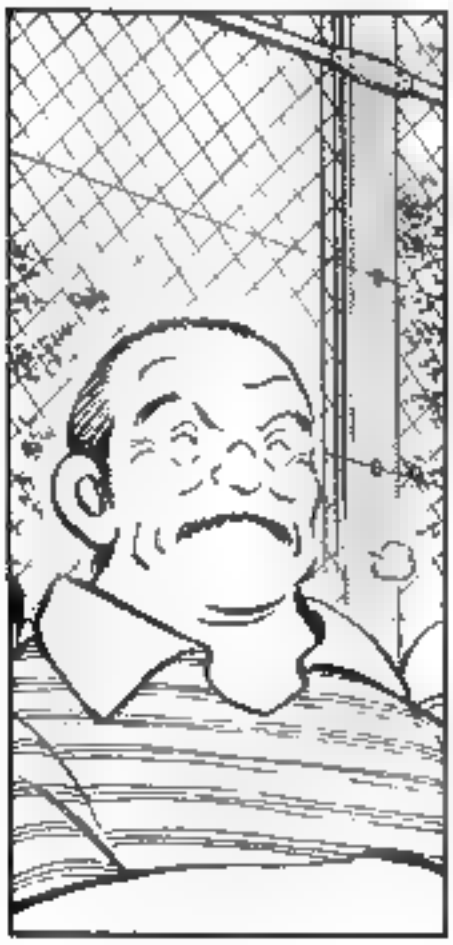
M,
MURA-YAMA.

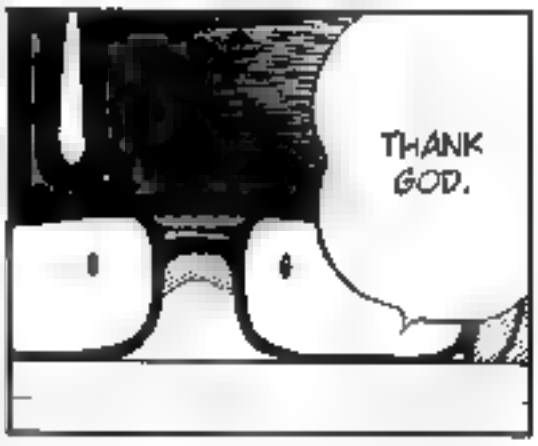

CLANG

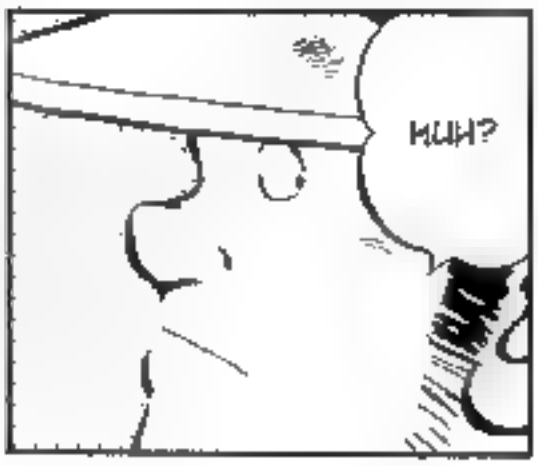

...OH.
WELL, WE'VE HAD A LOT OF KIDS GET HURT OR SICK RECENTLY.


OUT!
WHEW.
NACC
U.S.A.
...Crap!
NACC
U.S.A.
IT'S TO RIGHT!
I GOT IT, I GOT IT!


YAHHH
NICE PLAY, HIROKI!




THANK GOD.

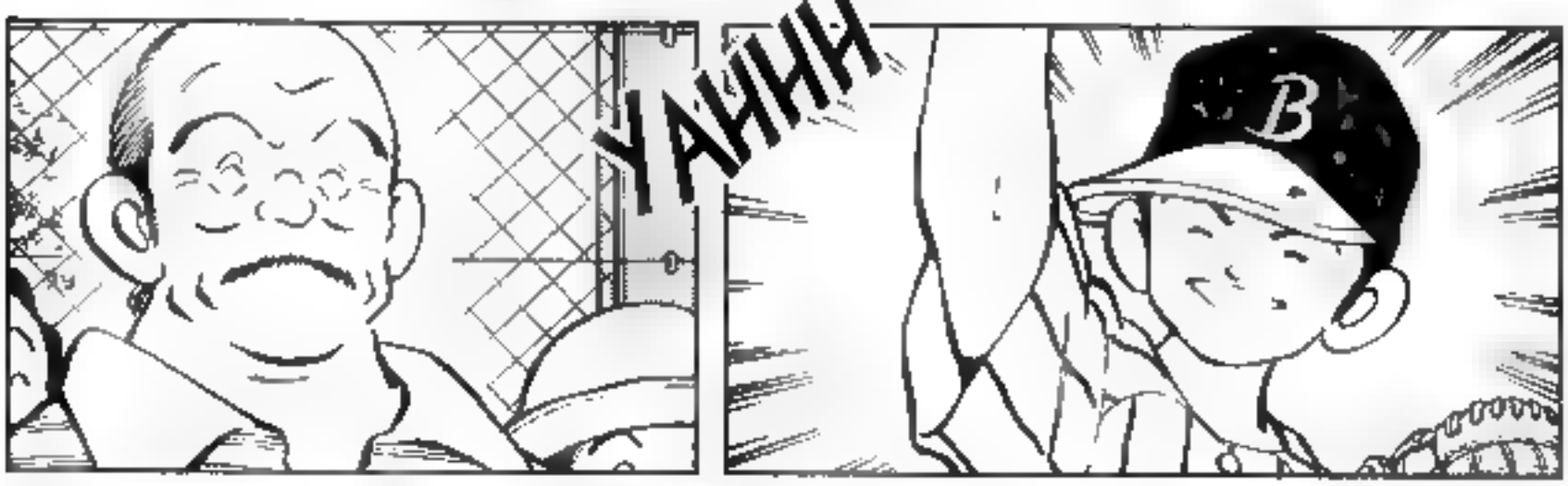

HUH?

YOUR LAST NAME'S TOO LONG TO SAY.
YOU CALL HIM BY HIS FIRST NAME?

WHIFF
Two outs, runners on 1st and 3rd...
BATTER OUT!
YAHHH
Two outs, runners on 2nd and 3rd...
WHIFF
BATTER OUT!
twitch

STRIKE THREE!
BATTER OUT!
YAHHH

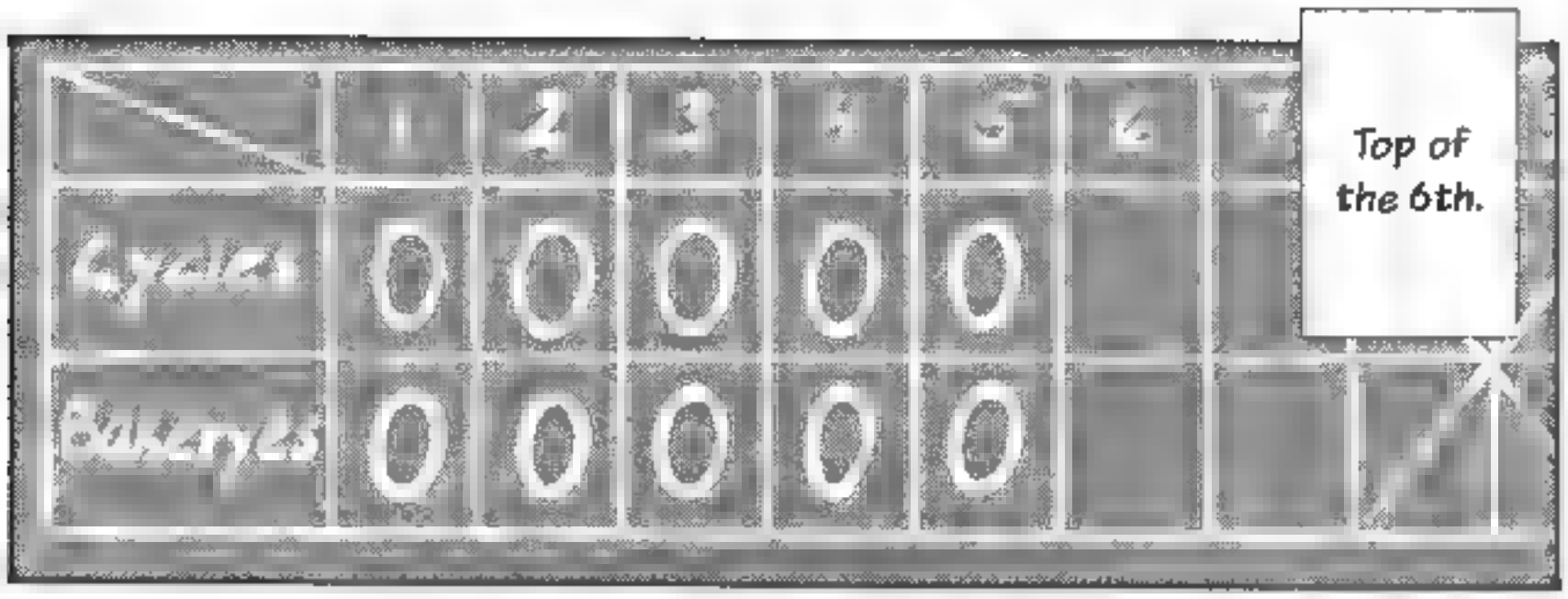
YEAH...
ONLY ONE HIT SO FAR.
DOESN'T HE?
PITCHER'S GOT A WICKED FASTBALL.

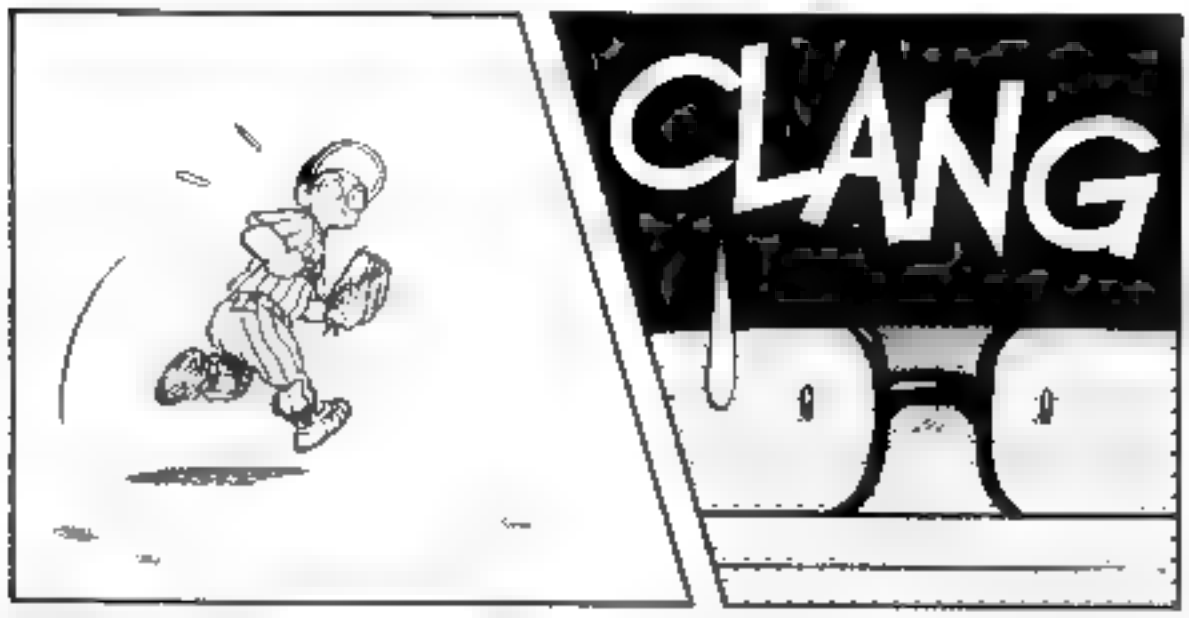

YAHHH

WHIFF

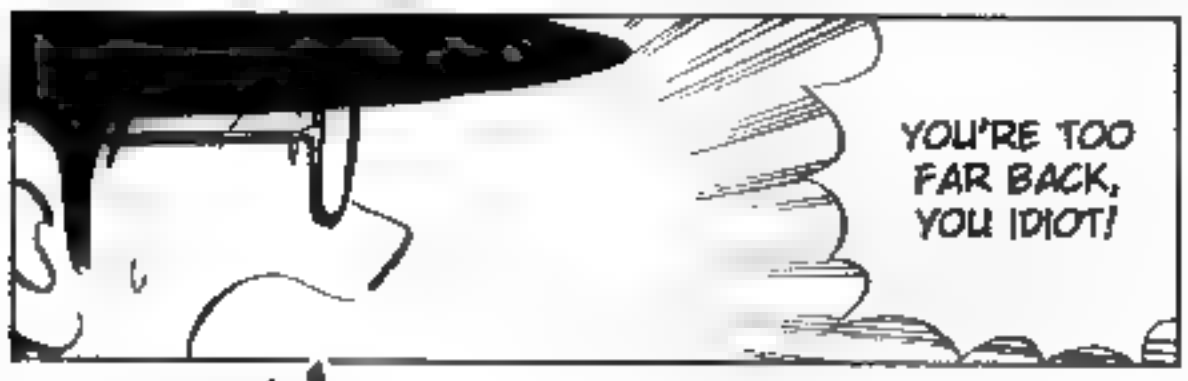
WE'RE GETTING RUNNERS ON BASE EVERY INNING.

GIVE HIM SOME RUNS ALREADY.

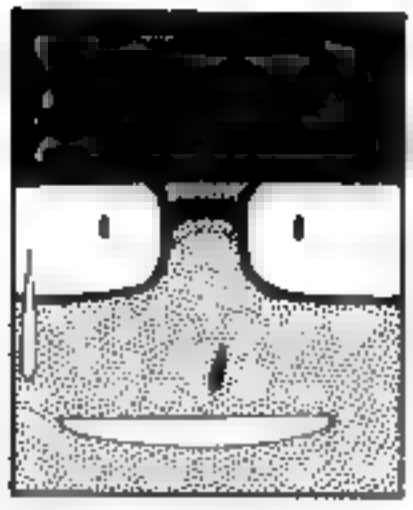

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Cyclops 0 0 0 0 0
Bulldogs 0 0 0 0 0
Top of the 6th.


CLANG

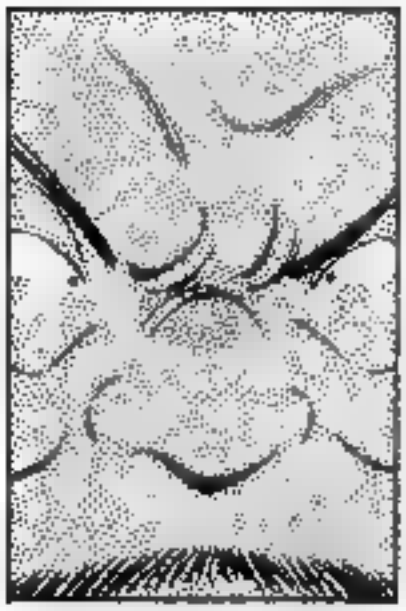
The other team has two outs and a runner on 1st.


YOU'RE TOO FAR BACK, YOU IDIOT!

YAHHH



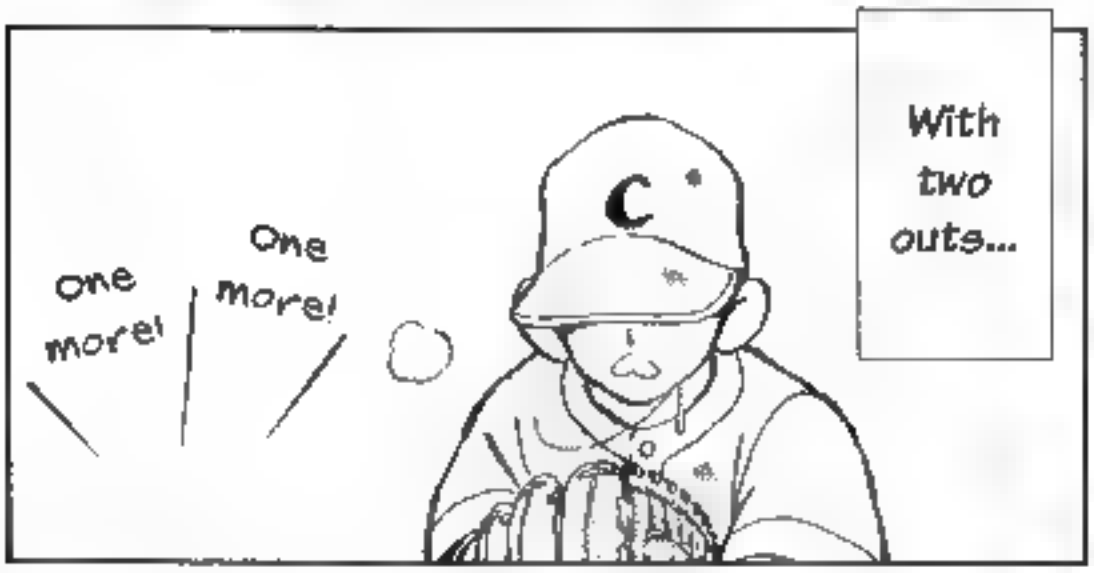
THAT RUNNER'S FAST, TOO.

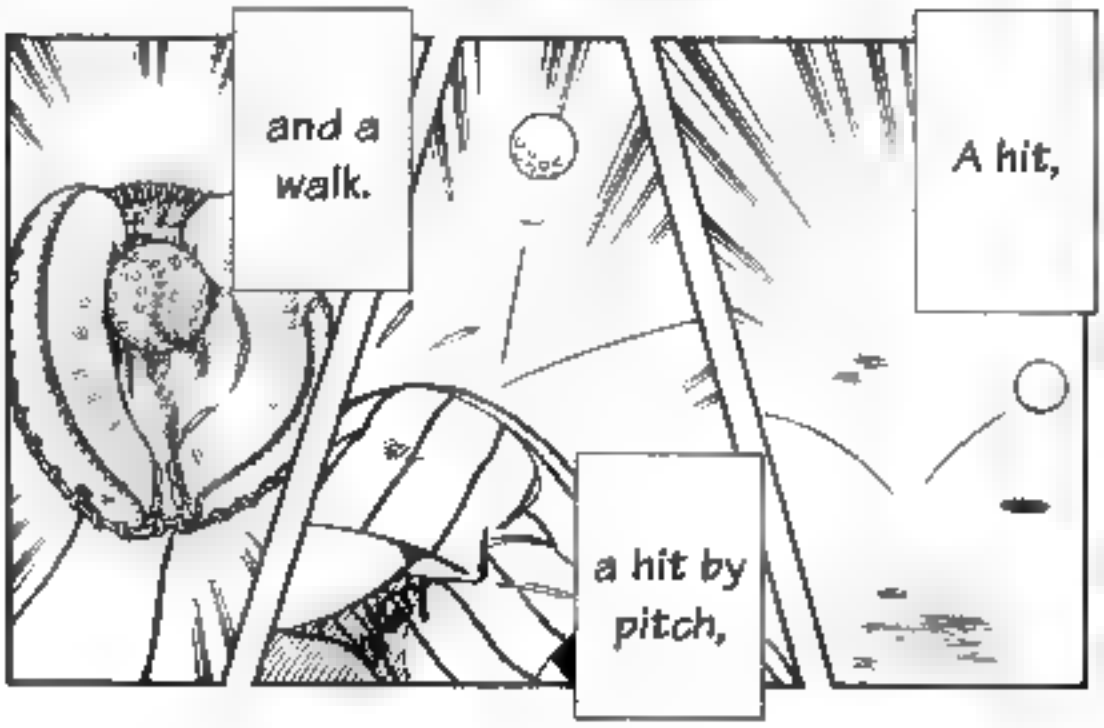


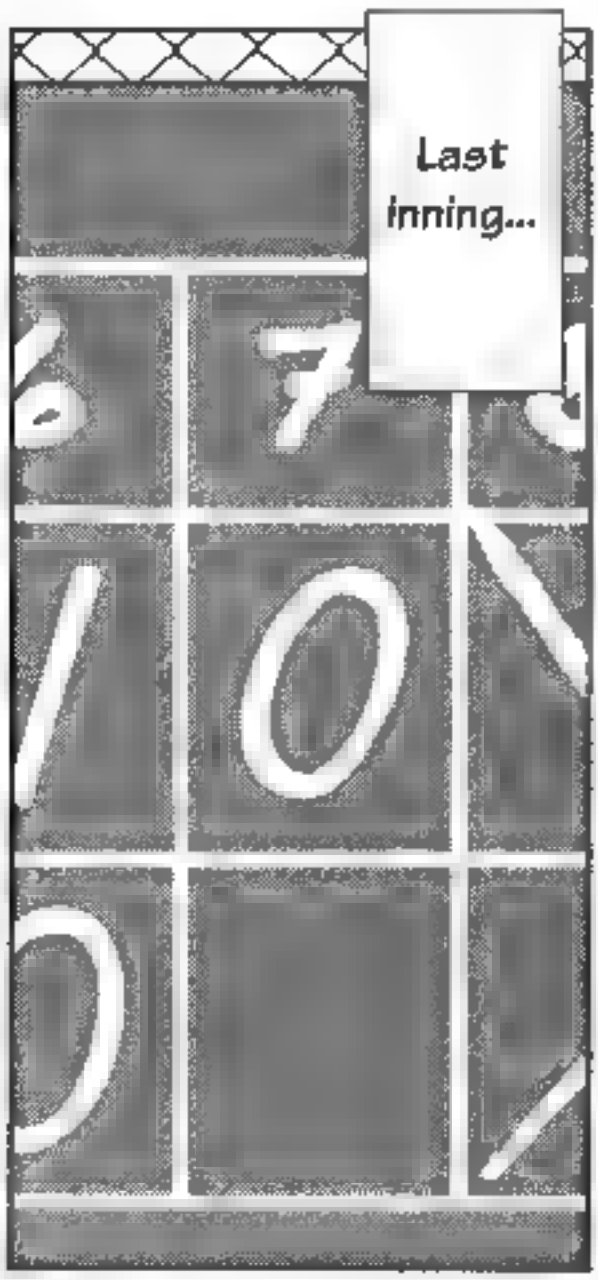
...RIGHT.

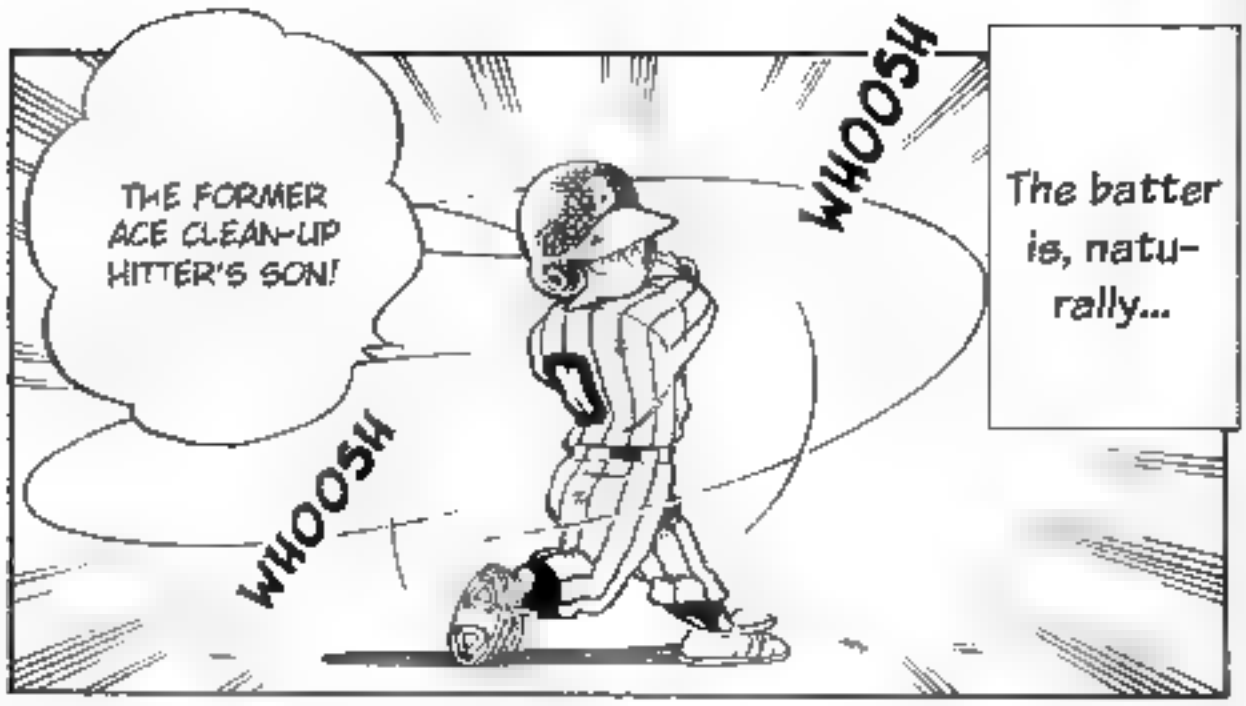
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I'VE EVER KNOWN.
DO YOU THINK SAKURAGI-MARU IS A RARE LAST NAME?

YAHHH


With two outs...
One more!
One more!

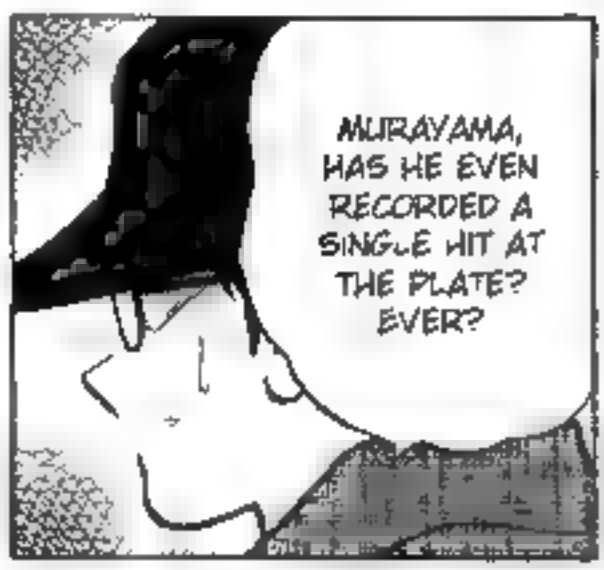

A hit,
and a walk.
a hit by pitch,

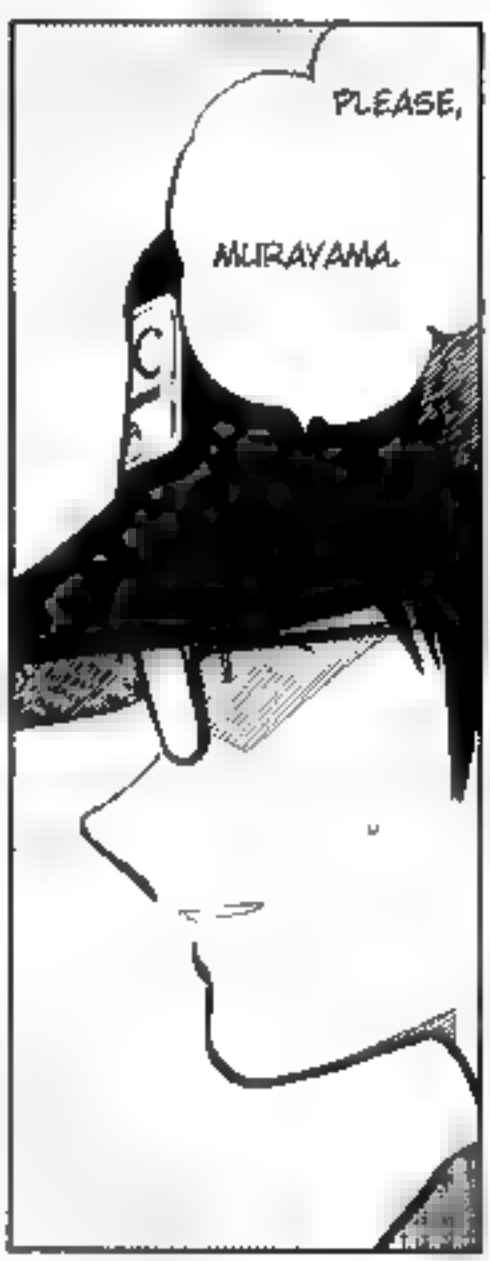

Last inning...

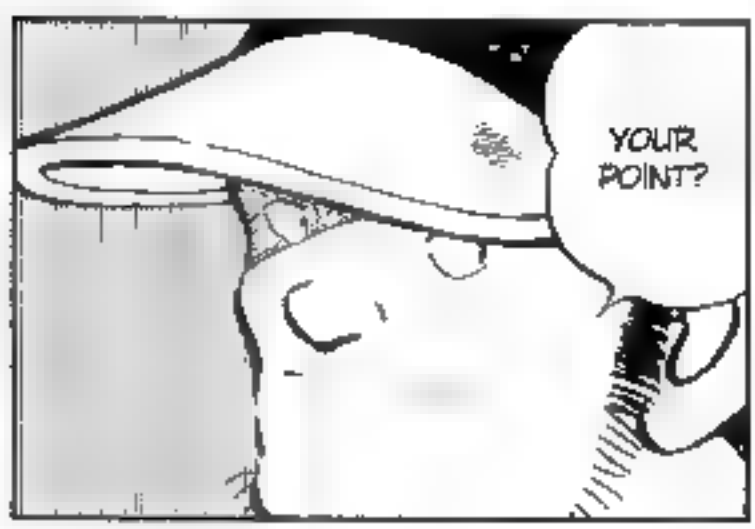


The batter is, naturally...

And now, with nowhere left to turn, when one hit wins the game...







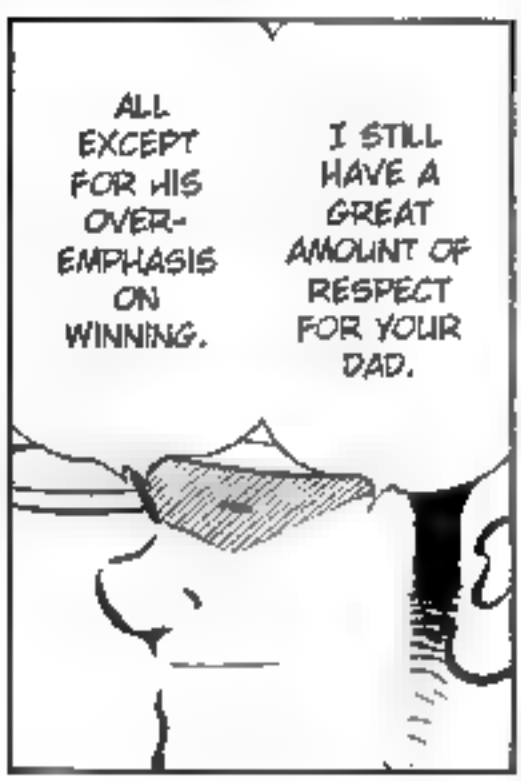
GIVE HIM THE "TAKE" SIGN UNTIL THERE ARE TWO STRIKES.

U.S.A.
BECAUSE OF THAT...?
DO YOU STILL BEAR A GRUDGE AGAINST MY FATHER,

BUT,
I DON'T KNOW THE "DON'T SWING AT THE THIRD STRIKE" SIGN.

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HIM I WAS ONLY THE PITCHER AND CLEAN-UP HITTER BECAUSE MY DAD WAS THE COACH?!
WHY DIDN'T YOU EVER TELL HIROKI?!

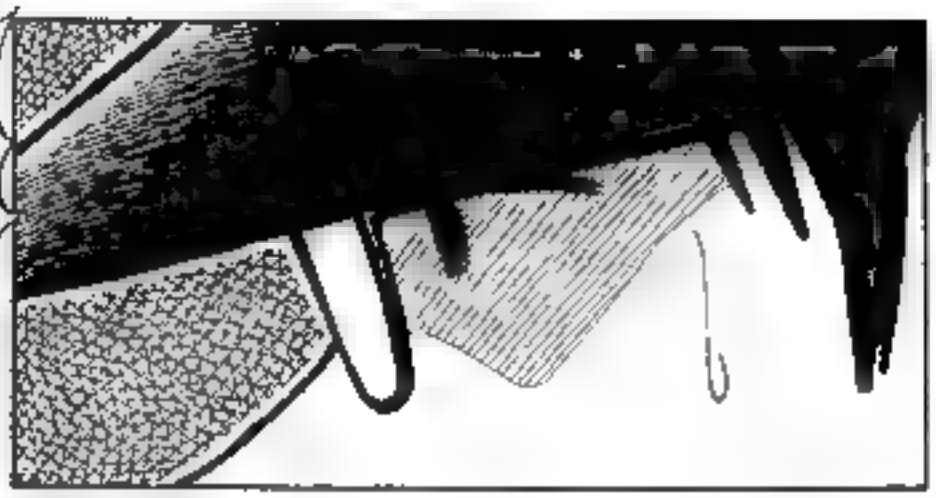
JUST LIKE YOU WERE?!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HIM I WAS A PATHETIC HITTER WHO WAS NEVER ENTRUSTED WITH THE CHANCE TO SWING,


ALL EXCEPT FOR HIS OVER-EMPHASIS ON WINNING.
I STILL HAVE A GREAT AMOUNT OF RESPECT FOR YOUR DAD.

YOU WERE JUST IN A TERRIBLE SLUMP AT THE TIME.

YAHHH
FWAP
BECAUSE I DON'T BELIEVE THAT.

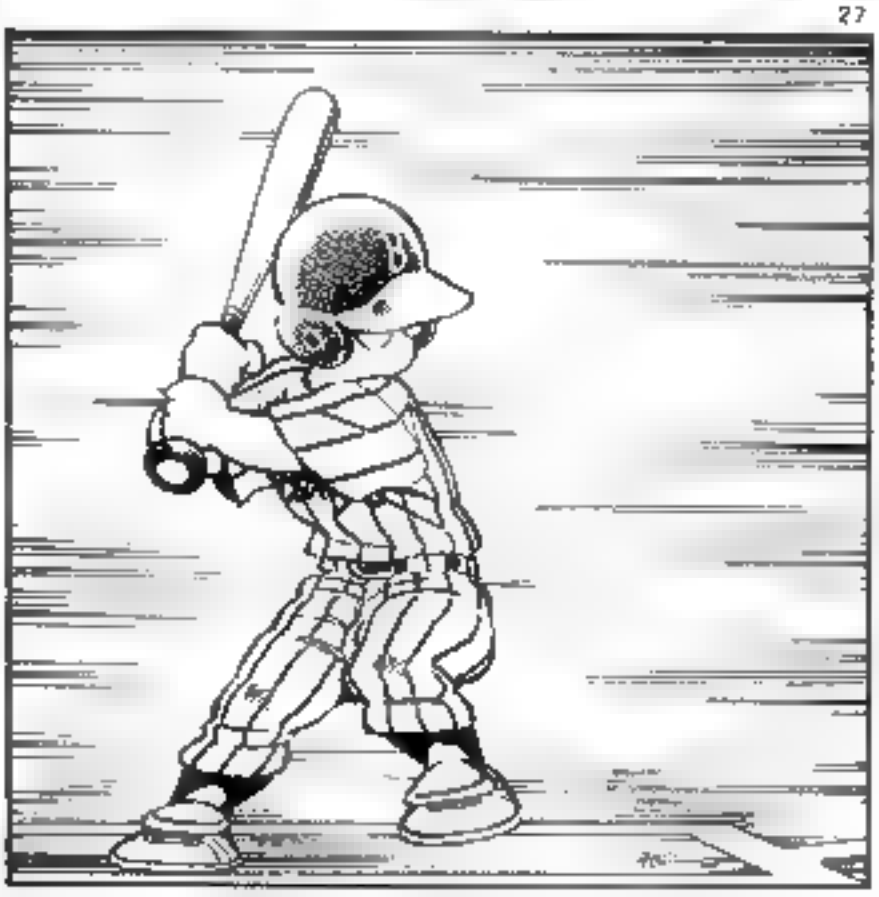
WATCH ME!
I'M GONNA GET A HIT!



HEY DAAAD!

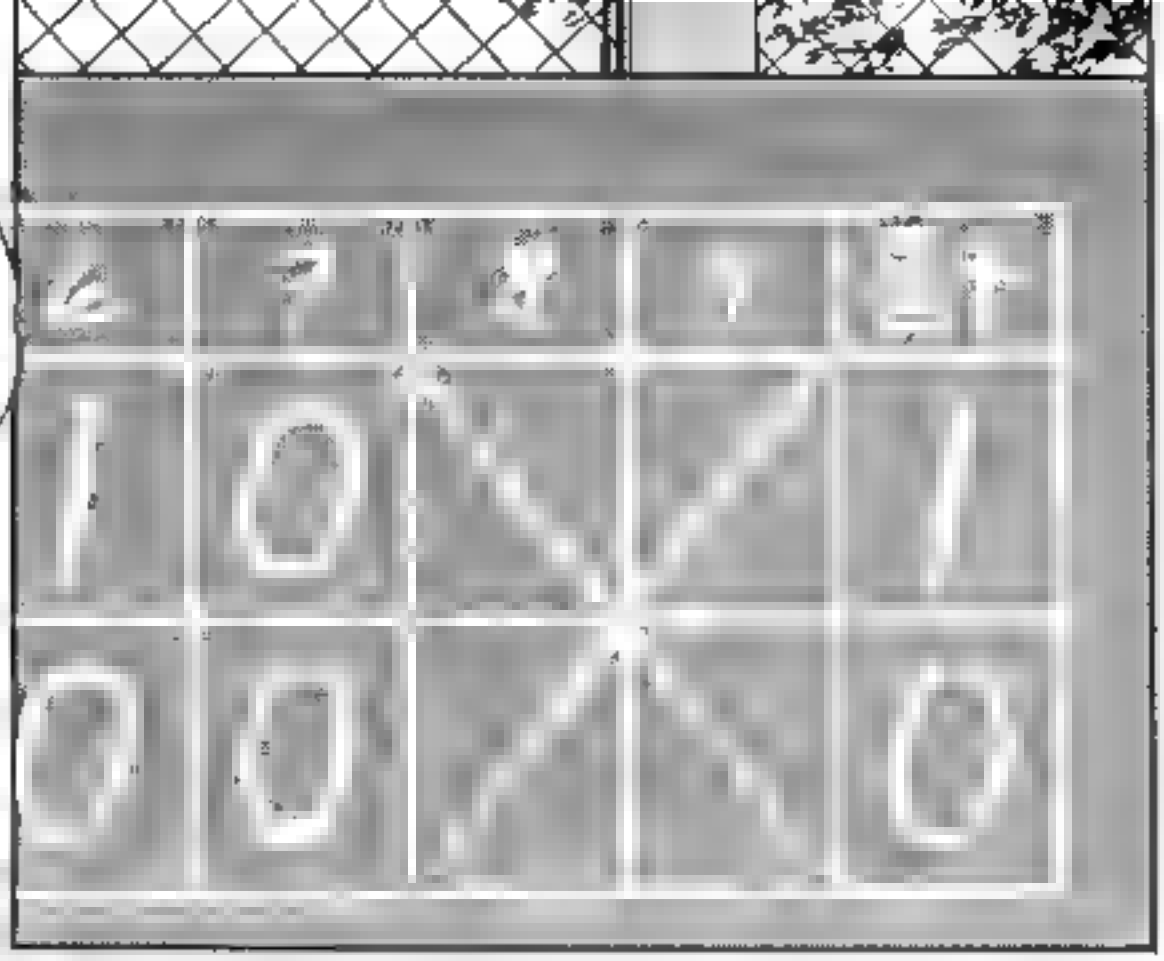
AND THEN THE BASTARD GETS HIMSELF MORTALLY SICK...
I SWORE THAT I WAS GOING TO PAY HIM BACK FOR THAT,

YAHHH
WHERE'S YOUR PROOF?

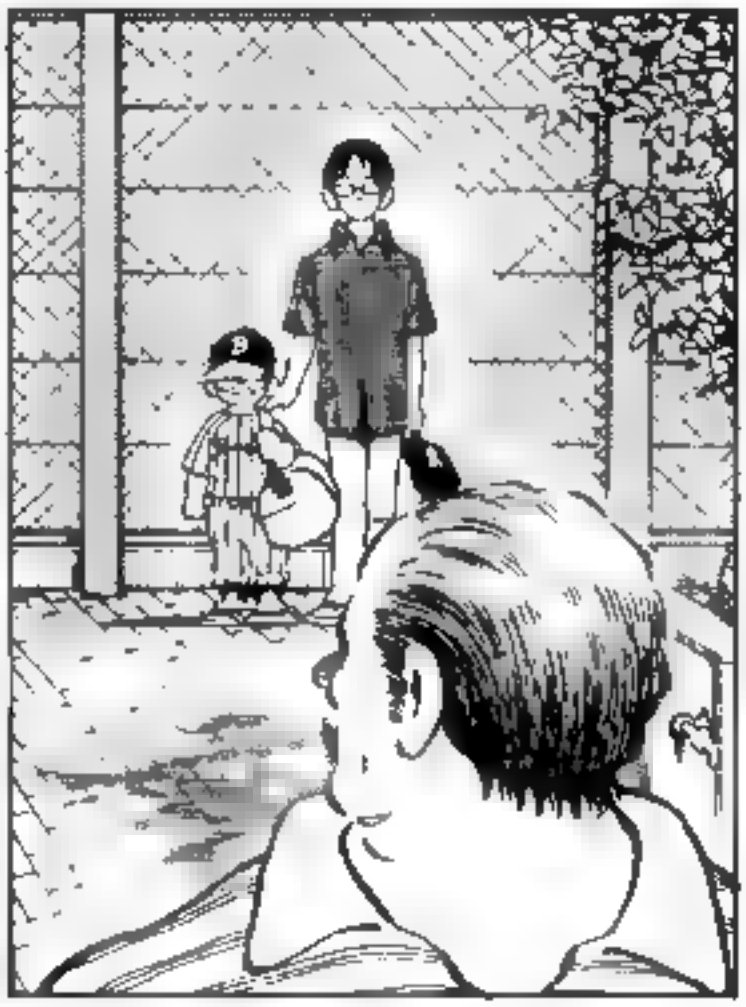


The ball, unseen,
disap-peared far beyond the expan-sive clouds...

DIRECTOR.

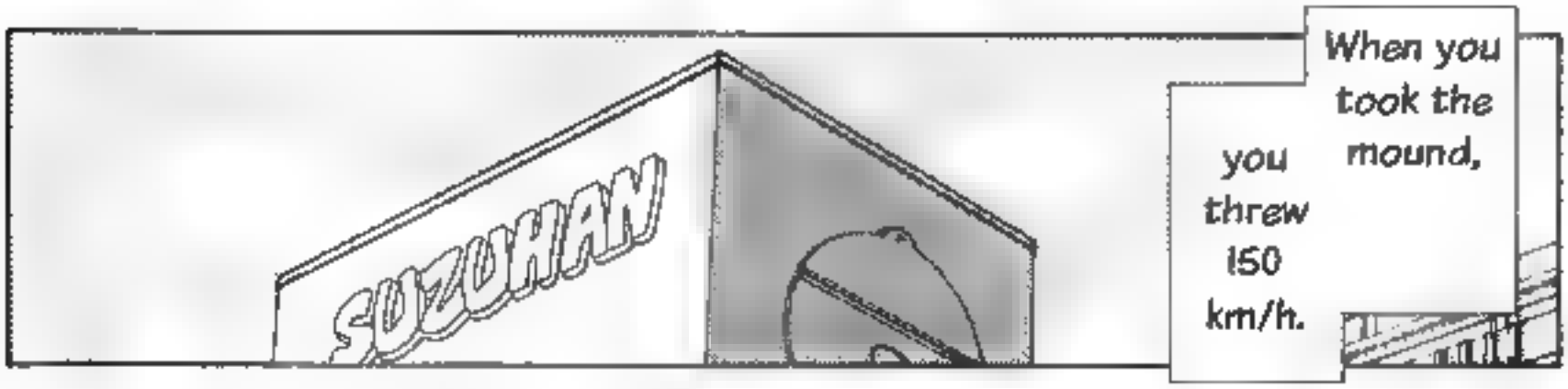


HELLO!
THIS IS MY SON.



I'LL GET A HIT NEXT TIME!
I'M SORRY, MISTER.

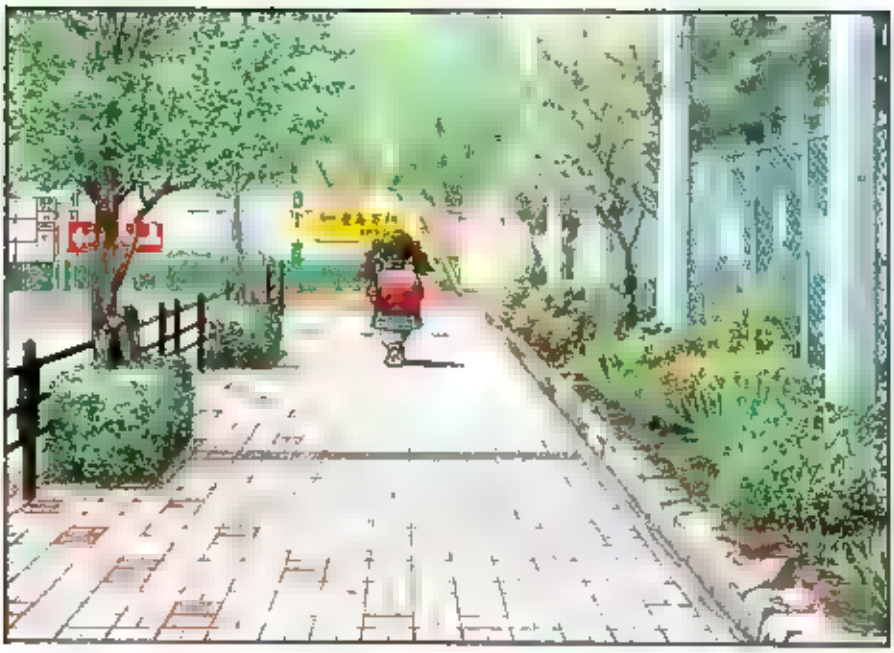
BECAUSE OF YOU, MY GRANDSON WAS THE LOSING PITCHER.
B



- Chapter 4 End -

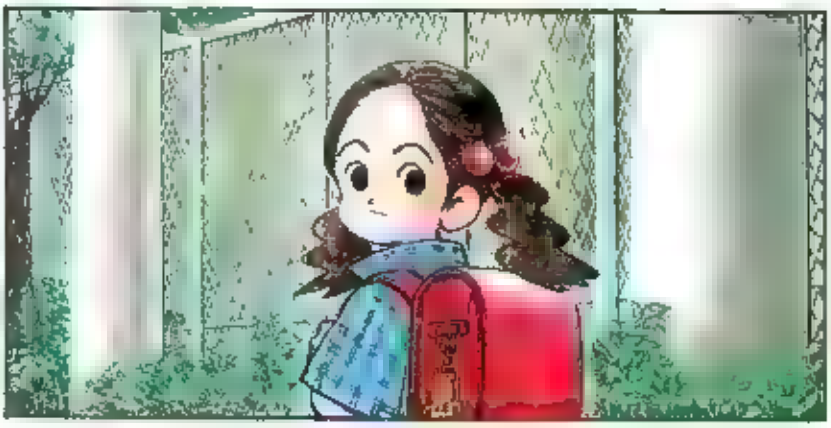
Chapter 5

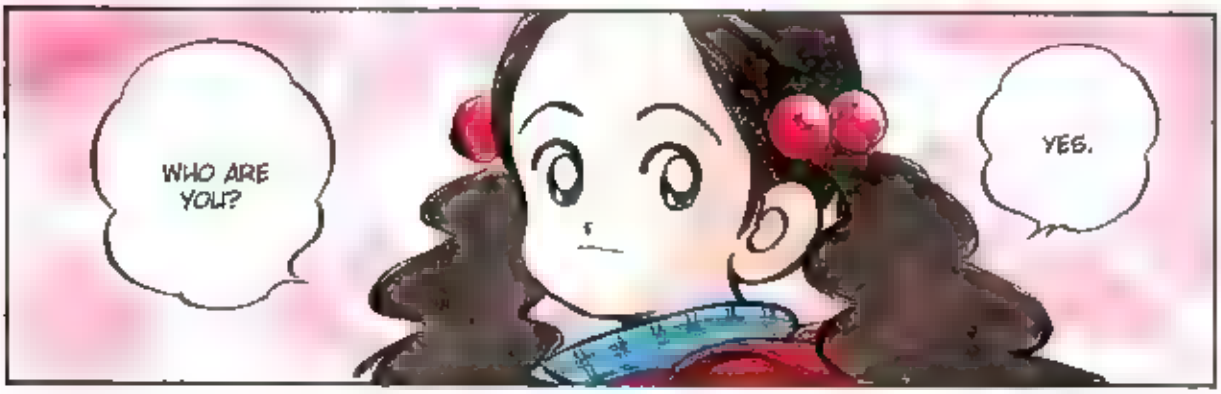
Transmission



HEL..O THERE.

LITTLE MISS, YOUR FATHER IS THE PRESIDENT OF OKAMURA REALTY, ISN'T HE?

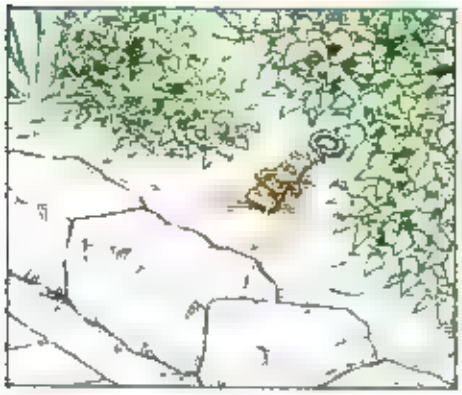


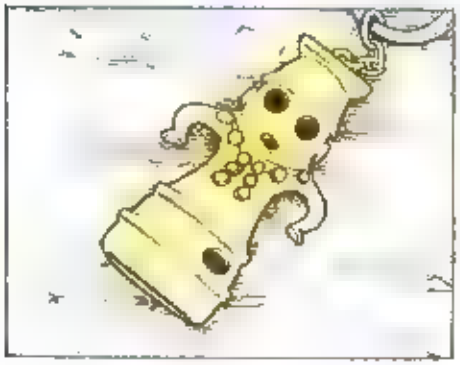


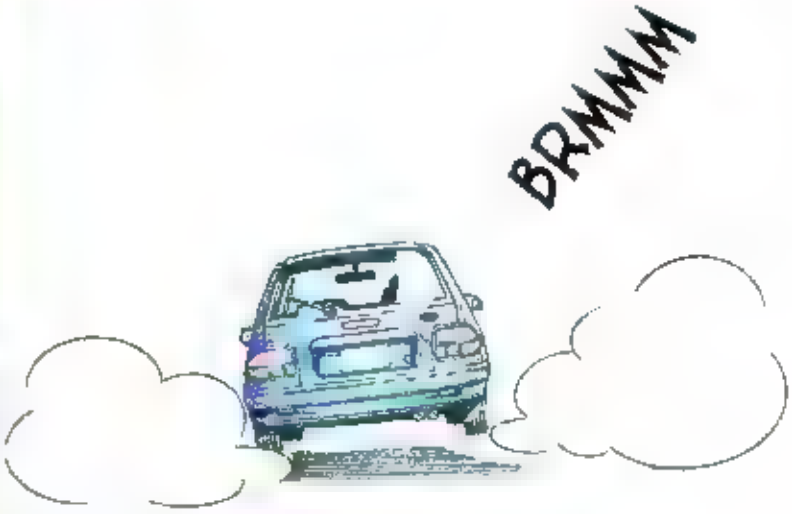
ME? WEL....

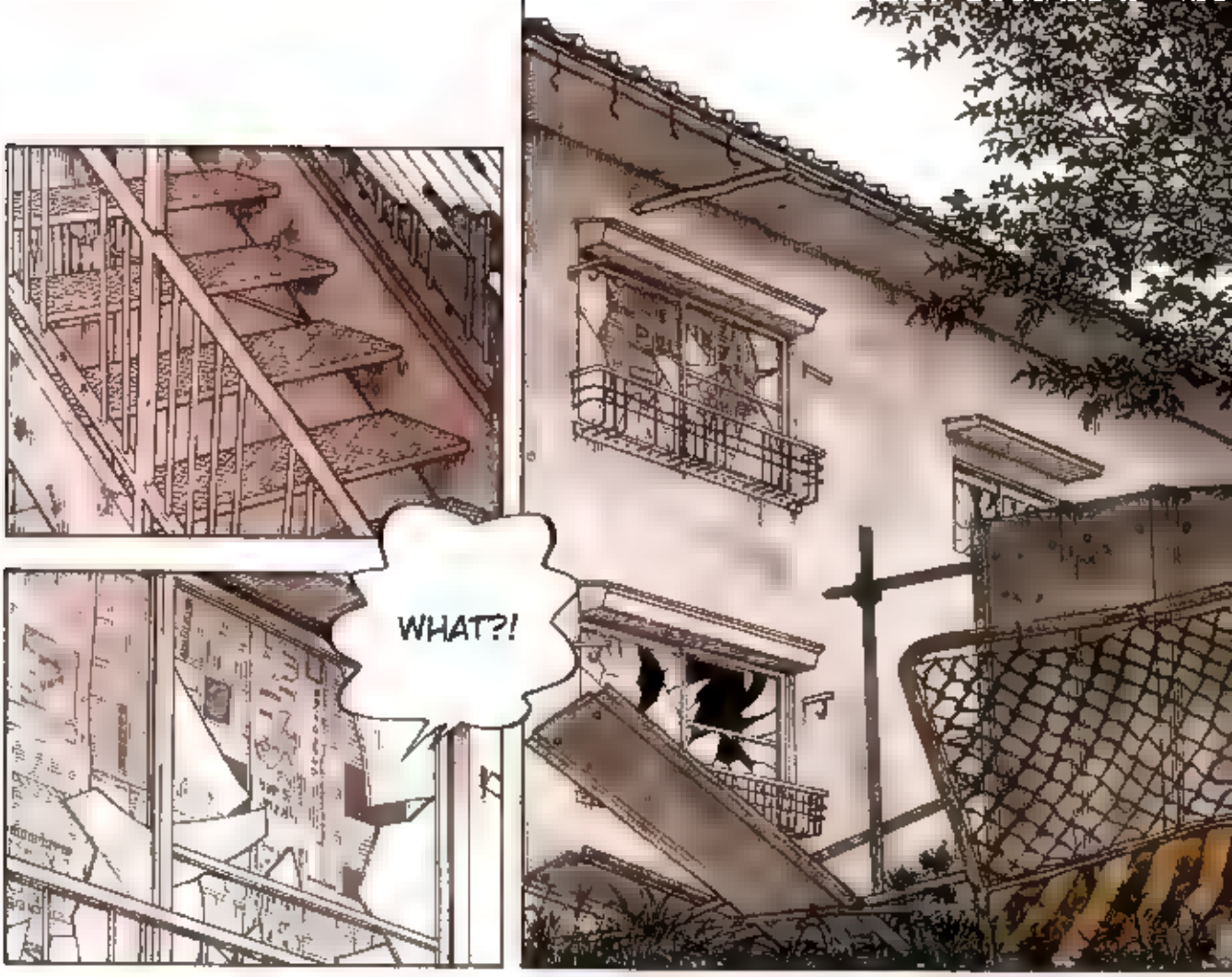
I'M A KID-NAPPER WHO WANTS YOU FOR RANSOM MONEY.

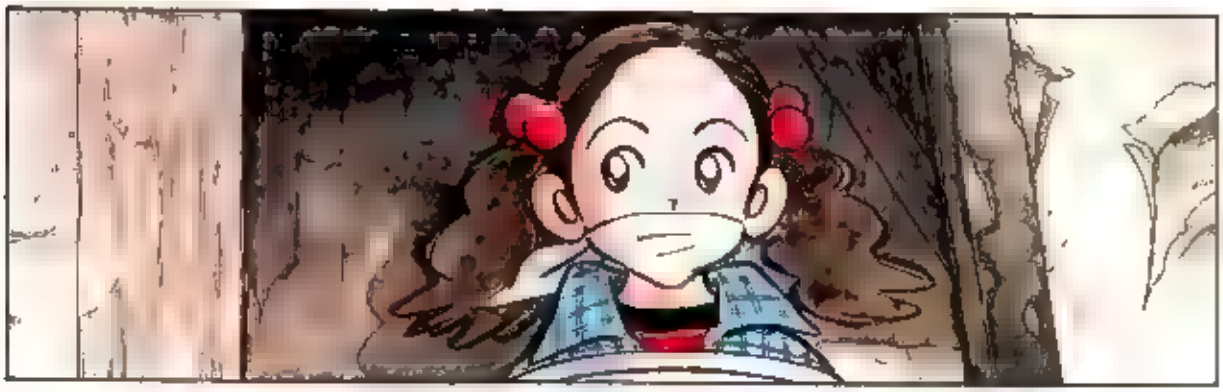
SLAM

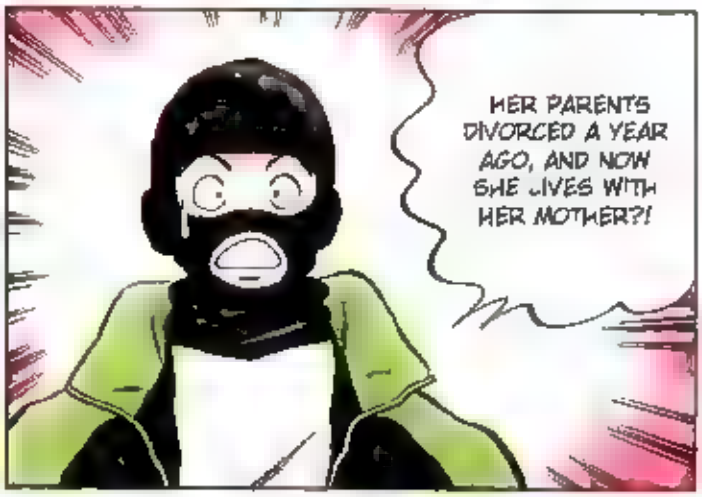





BRMMM





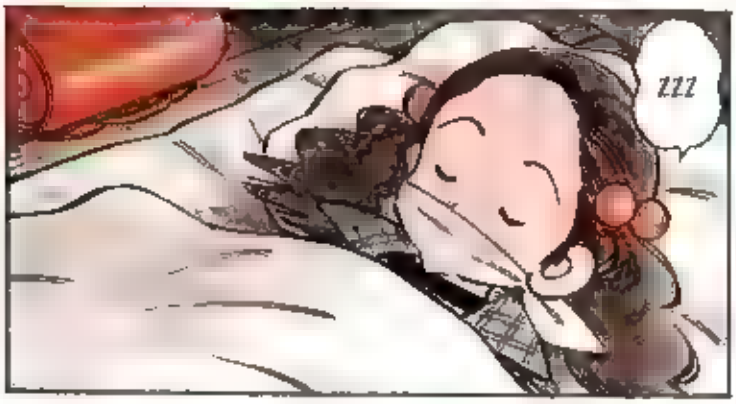


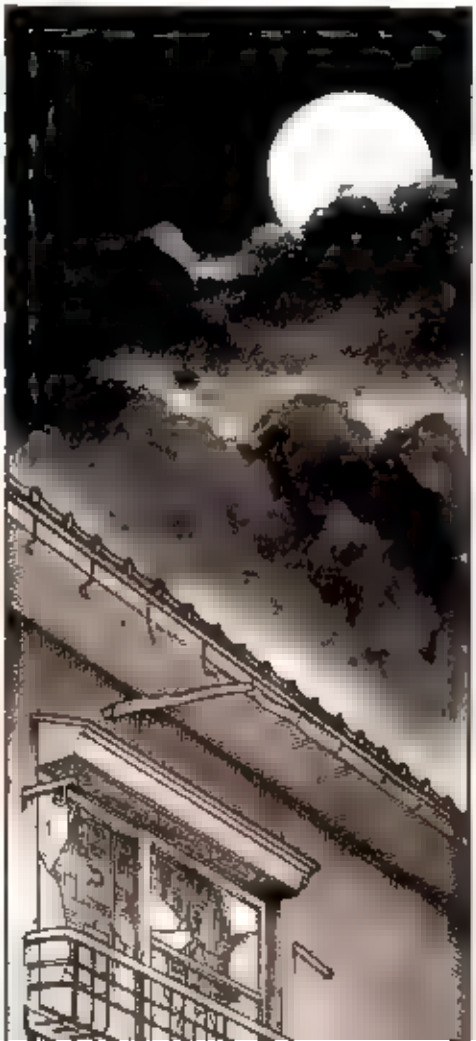
Scanned by Athanor
Translated by Stephen
Edited by Pet

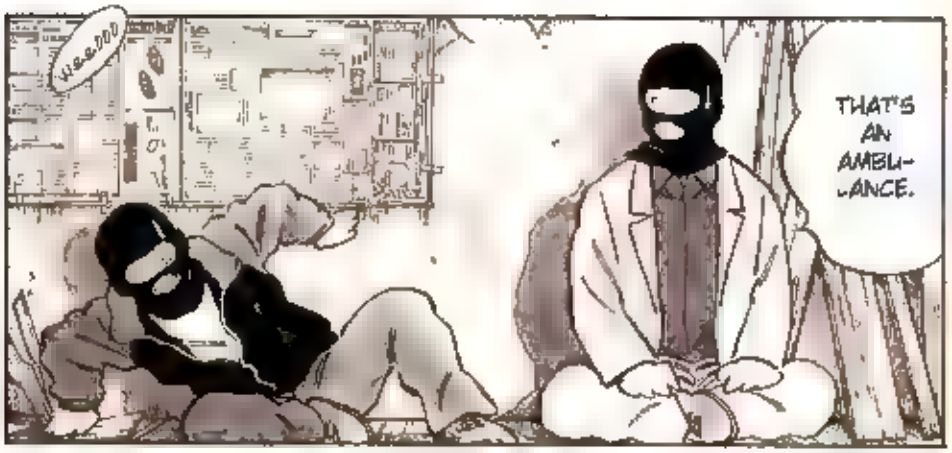
FIRST THING WE DO IS CALL THEM TO SAY WE'VE GOT THEIR DAUGHTER.
creak

DIVORCED OR NOT, THEY'RE STILL HER PARENTS.
W-WE'LL BE FINE.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

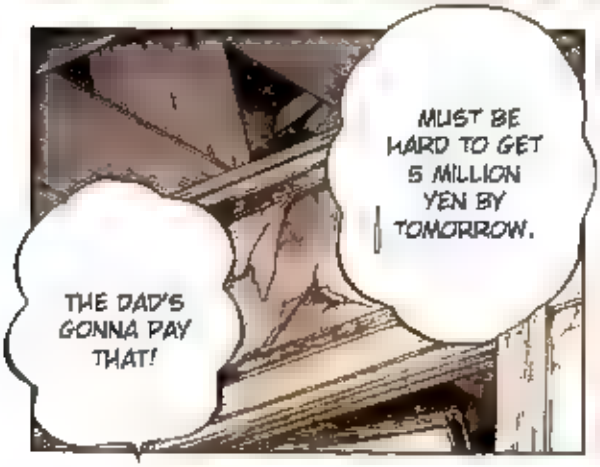
UH, I GUESS?
DON'T WANT THEM WORRIED ABOUT HER BEING HOME LATE.
beep
boop

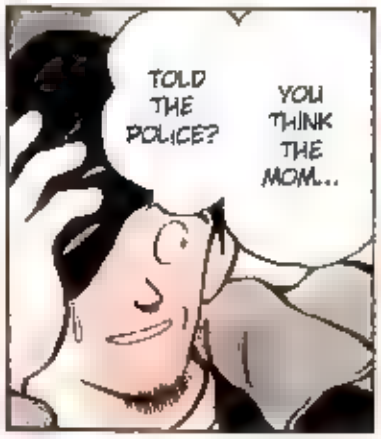

zzz




HEEOOO
THAT'S AN AMBU-LANCE.

HEEOOO
HEEOOO


MUST BE HARD TO GET 5 MILLION YEN BY TOMORROW.
THE DAD'S GONNA PAY THAT!

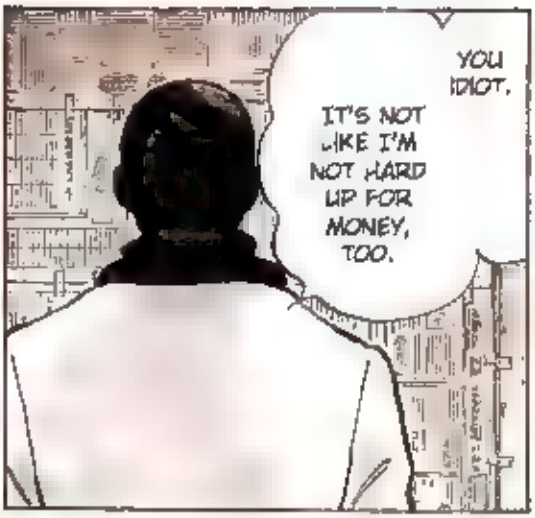

TOLD THE POLICE?
YOU THINK THE MOM...

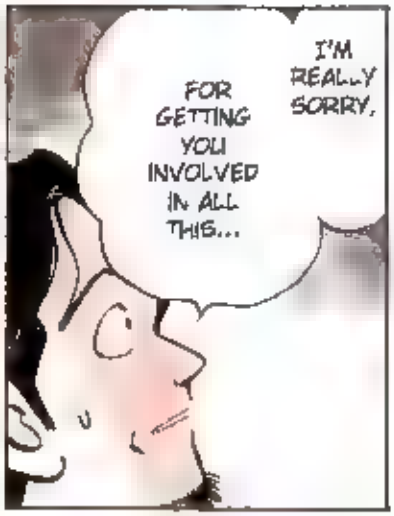
IF YOU SEE THE POLICE, THEN WE'LL KNOW SOME-THING'S UP.
I'LL CALL HER AT A SPECIFIC TIME.
TETSUO, TOMORROW YOU'RE GONNA GO AND KEEP WATCH ON HER MOM'S HOUSE.

TOMO-HIKO.
WHAT?

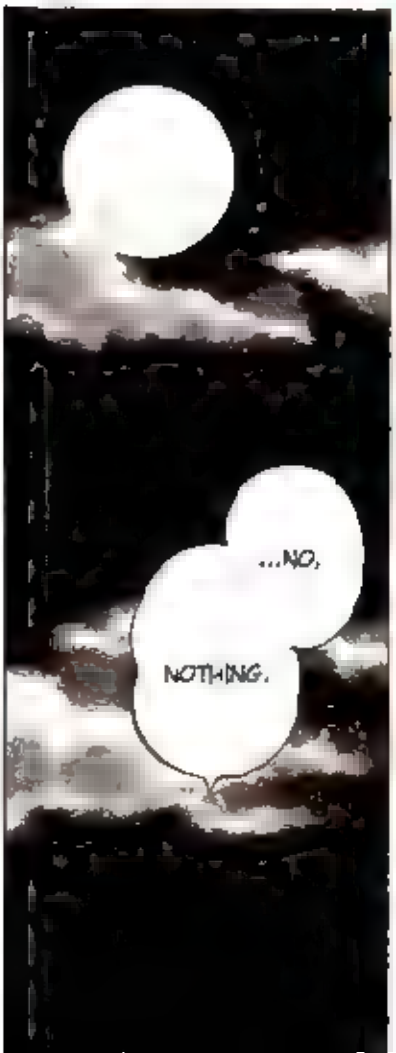
GOT IT.

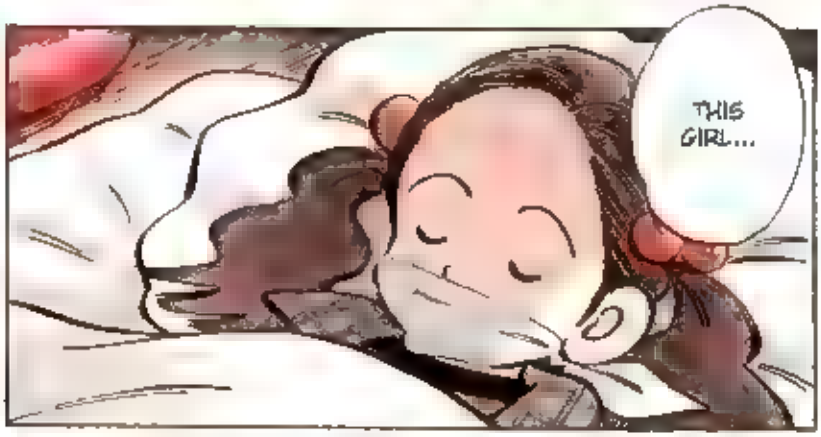
ZZZ

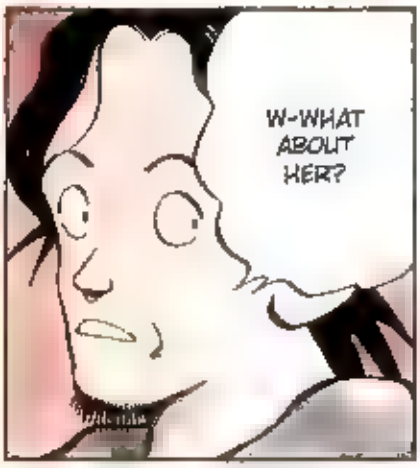

YOU IDIOT.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M NOT HARD UP FOR MONEY, TOO.

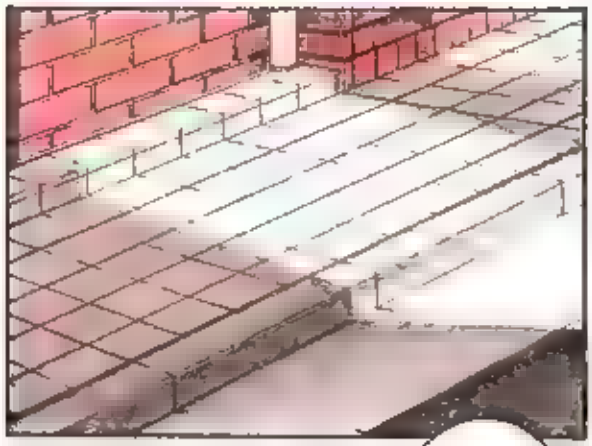

I'M REALLY SORRY.
FOR GETTING YOU INVOLVED IN ALL THIS...

HUH?
SAY, TETSUO.


...NO,
NOTHING.

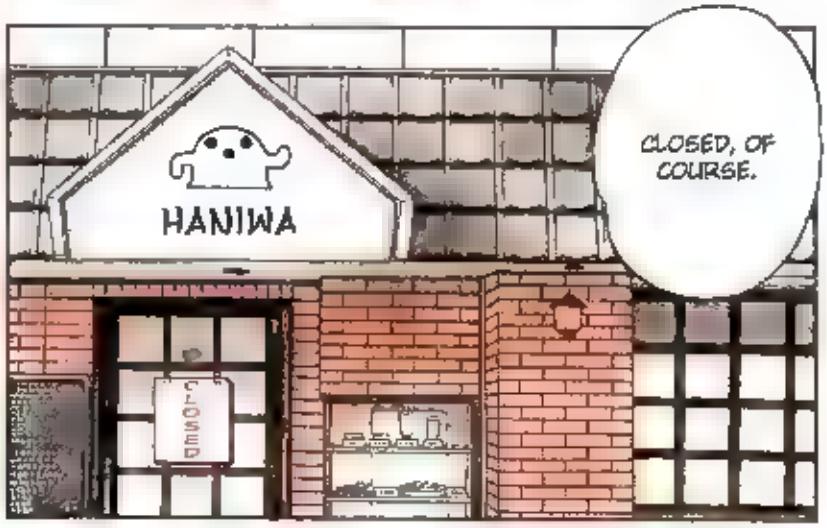

THIS GIRL...


W-WHAT ABOUT HER?



THE CAFE... "HANIWA"?
HANIWA

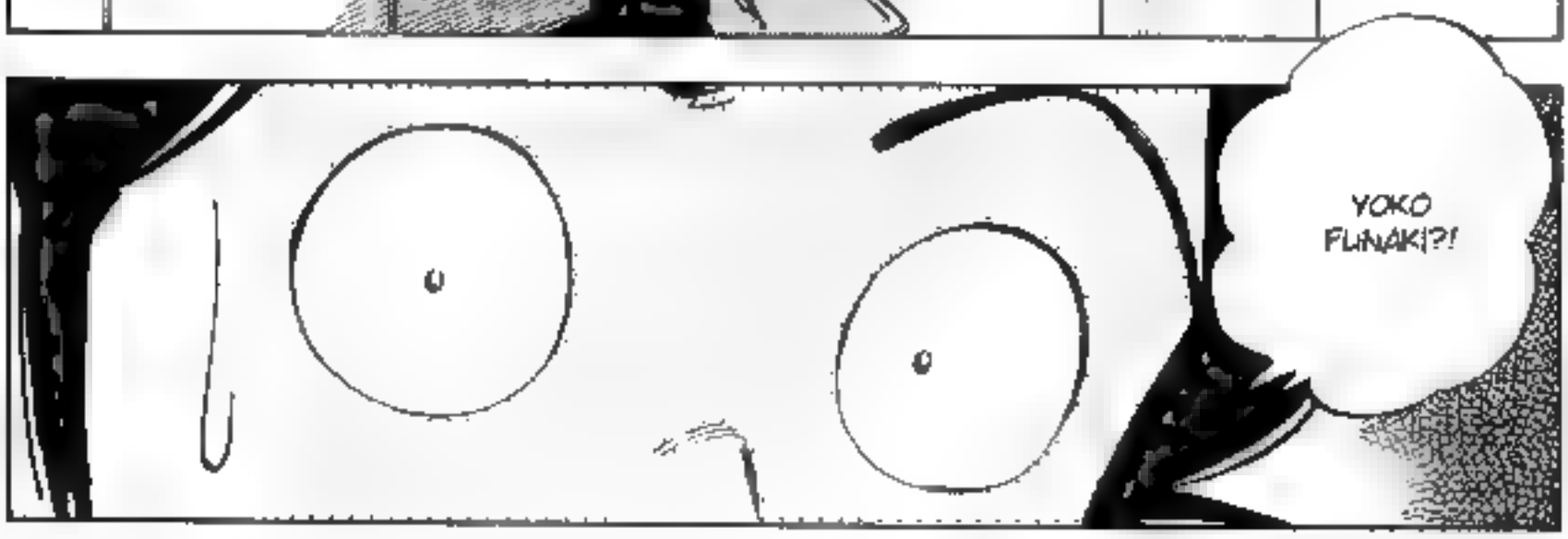
THAT'S IT...


HANIWA
CLOSED, OF COURSE.

TETCHAN?!

TETSUO TADOKORO!
TET-CHAN?!
IS THAT YOU, TETCHAN?!

UH-


YOKO FUNAKI?!

HANIWA
CLANK
HUH?!

HUH?
HEY, COME WITH ME!

MY DAUGHTER, TSUKASA.
SHE'S IN 4TH GRADE...

K-KID-NAPPED?!

...AND DID YOU TELL THE POLICE?
...

WELL, I THINK THEY ALL SAY THAT...
THEY SAID NOT TO TELL THE POLICE, IF WE WANTED HER BACK UNHARMED...

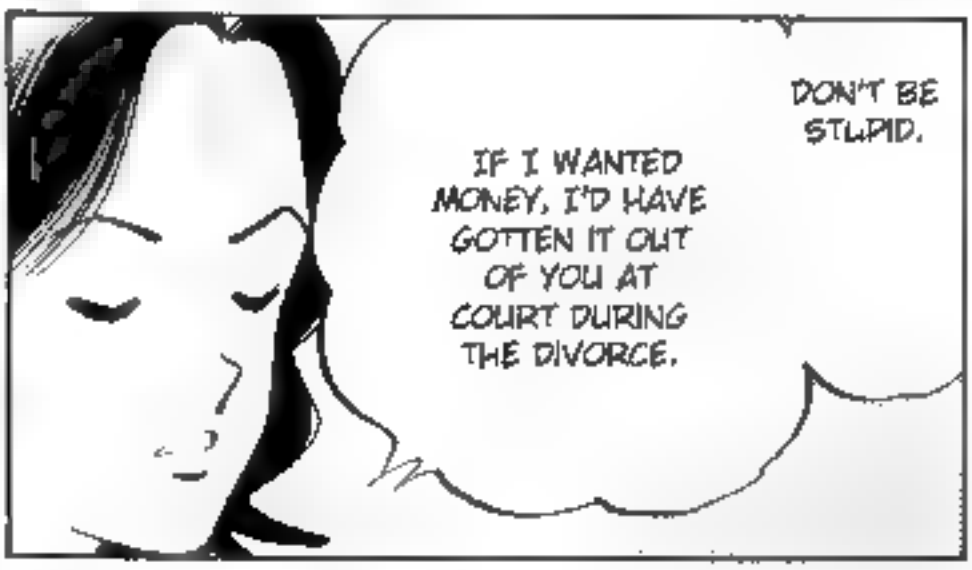
CLANK

THE "SECRET" COMPANY ACCOUNT BOOK THAT SOMEHOW GOT MIXED UP IN MY LUGGAGE.
HERE YOU GO.

THUMP

I'D NEVER USE A SINGLE YEN OF YOUR MONEY IF IT WASN'T FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
DID YOU TELL THE POLICE?!

THAT WAS A FILTHY TRICK.


DON'T BE STUPID.
IF I WANTED MONEY, I'D HAVE GOTTEN IT OUT OF YOU AT COURT DURING THE DIVORCE.

SINCE WHEN HAS A KIDNAPPER EVER BEEN "TRUST-WORTHY"?!

IT WAS A TRUST-WORTHY VOICE ON THE PHONE.
DON'T WORRY. AS LONG AS WE GIVE THEM THE MONEY, WE'LL GET TSUKASA BACK.

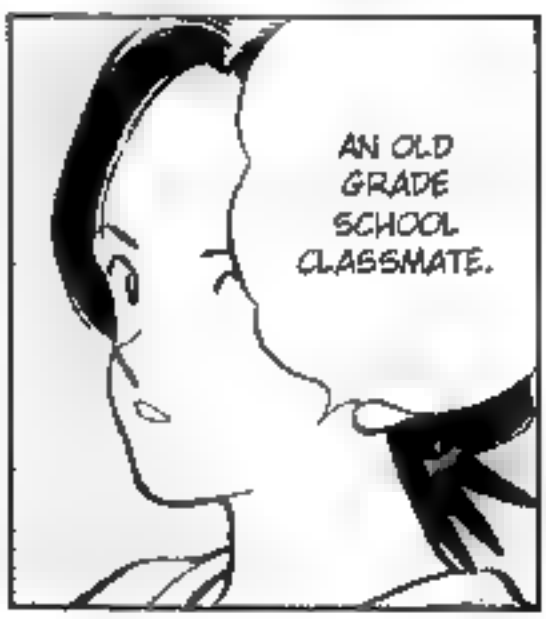
...

WOULDN'T THAT MEAN BAD THINGS FOR YOUR COMPANY?
AND THE KIDNAPPER ENDS UP BEING SOME BUSINESS PARTNER YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF,
IF THIS THING TURNS PUBLIC,

WHO THE HELL IS THAT?
BY THE WAY, THIS IS MY EX-HUSBAND, THE PRESIDENT OF OKAMURA REALTY.

JUST DON'T GET ME INVOLVED IN ANY OF THIS CRAP!

YOU'D BETTER NOT TELL ME HE'S SOME OLD FLAME OF YOURS.
Huh?


AN OLD GRADE SCHOOL CLASSMATE.

Uh, dam...
ABSOLUTELY NOT!

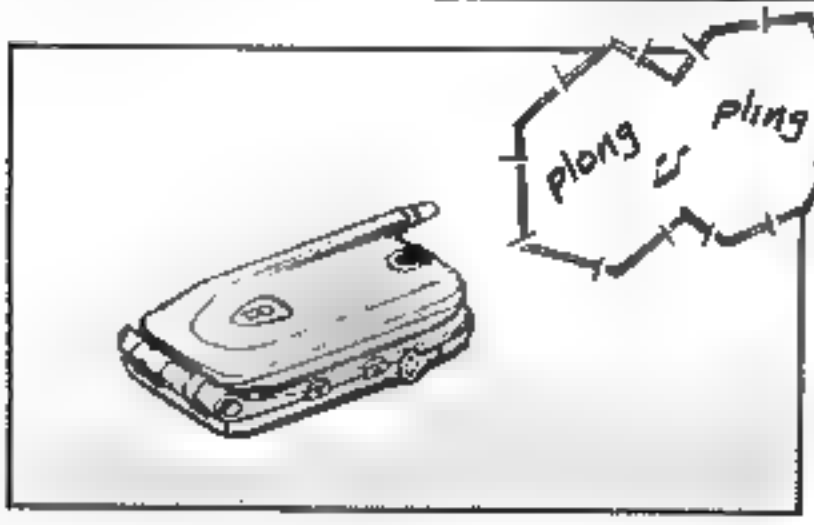
3 MILLION YEN?

SLAM
AND THAT IDIOTIC KIDNAPPER.
WHAT KIND OF CHEAP MORON ONLY ASKS FOR 3 MILLION YEN?!

THEN...
WHY DID YOU MARRY HIM?

I WANTED TO KEEP THE MONEY I BORROWED FROM THAT CREEP TO A MINIMUM.
I MANAGED TO SCRAPE THE OTHER 2 MILLION TOGETHER FROM HERE AND THERE.
DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY THE RANSOM WAS 5 MILLION?

I WAS DESPERATE AND TIRED OF WAITING FOR MY PRINCE.
IT WAS ONCE...
I HAD ALREADY PASSED 30.


pling
pling

UH... PRINCE?

W-WHATEVER.

IS THE MONEY READY?

YES. I MANAGED.

AND YOU HAVEN'T TOLD THE POLICE?

...NO.

CLASSMATE?

I JUST RAN INTO HIM ON THE STREET...

THAT'S MY DAUGHTER'S CELLPHONE RINGTONE.

IT'S FROM THE KIDNAPPER!

pip

JUST AN OLD GRADE SCHOOL CLASSMATE...

OH,

IS THERE ANYONE WITH YOU?!

BRING IT TO THE ENTRANCE OF ISHIKAWA PARK'S PARKING LOT IN ONE HOUR

RIGHT

It might be too dangerous for you...

Should I bring it to him?

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH THE MONEY?

BUT IT HAS TO BE JUST *ONE* PERSON!

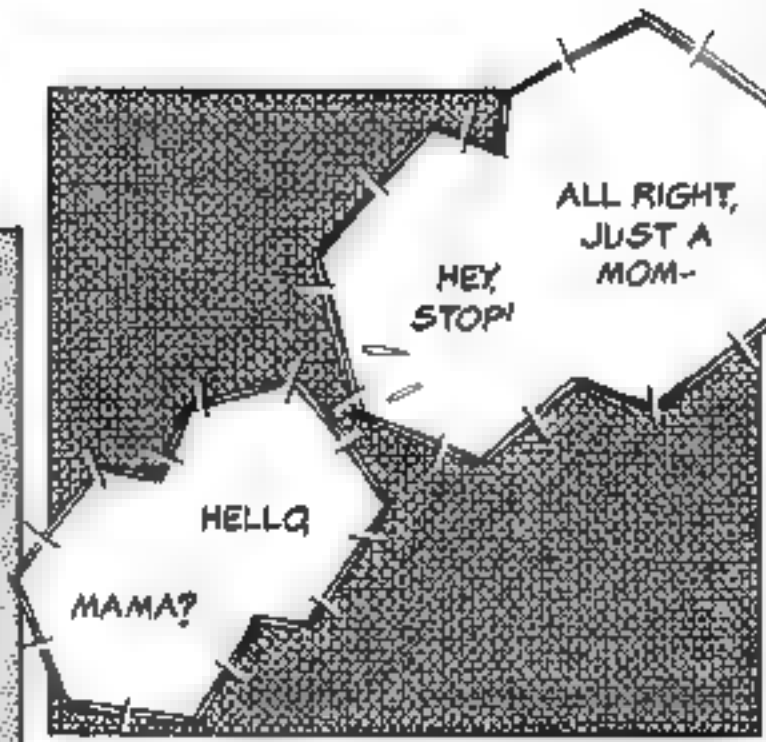
ANYONE, I DON'T CARE!

THE ONE I JUST MET ON THE STREET...

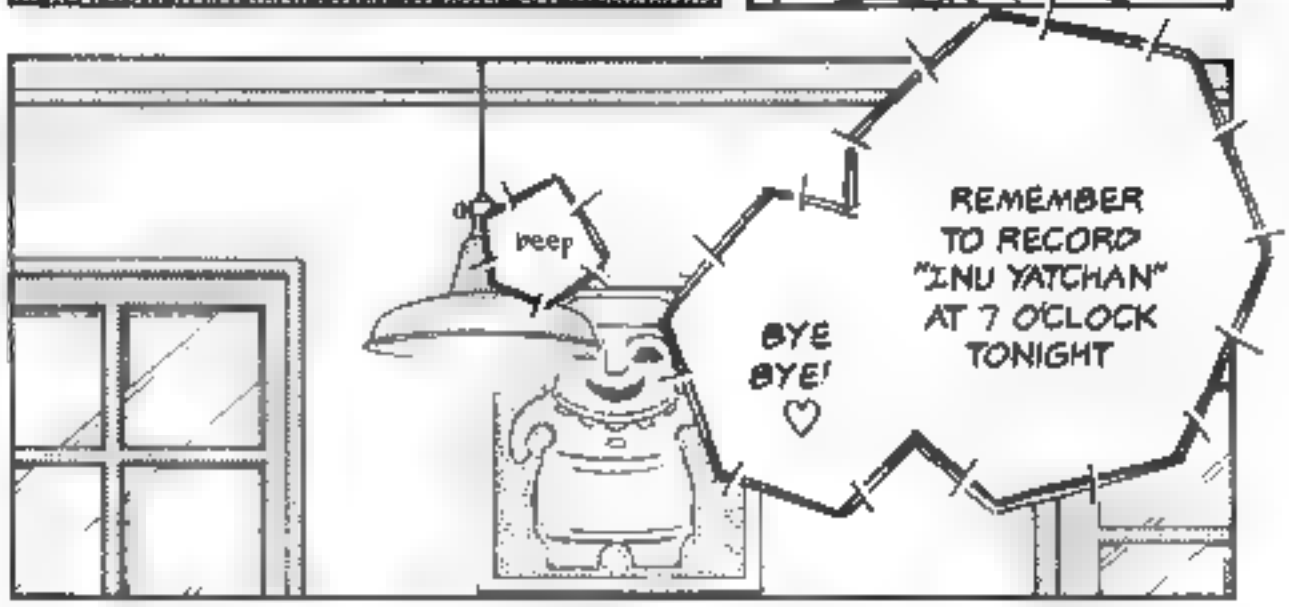
DO YOU MIND IF IT'S MY OLD CLASSMATE WHO BRINGS THE MONEY?

OH,

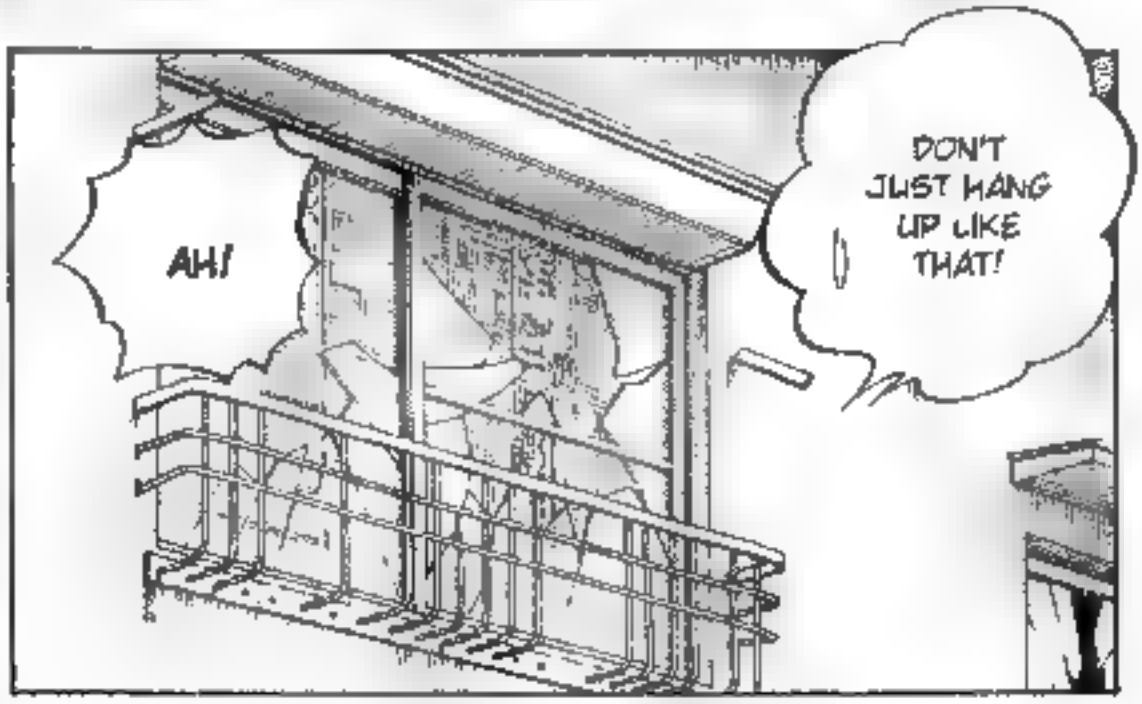
beeep
beeep

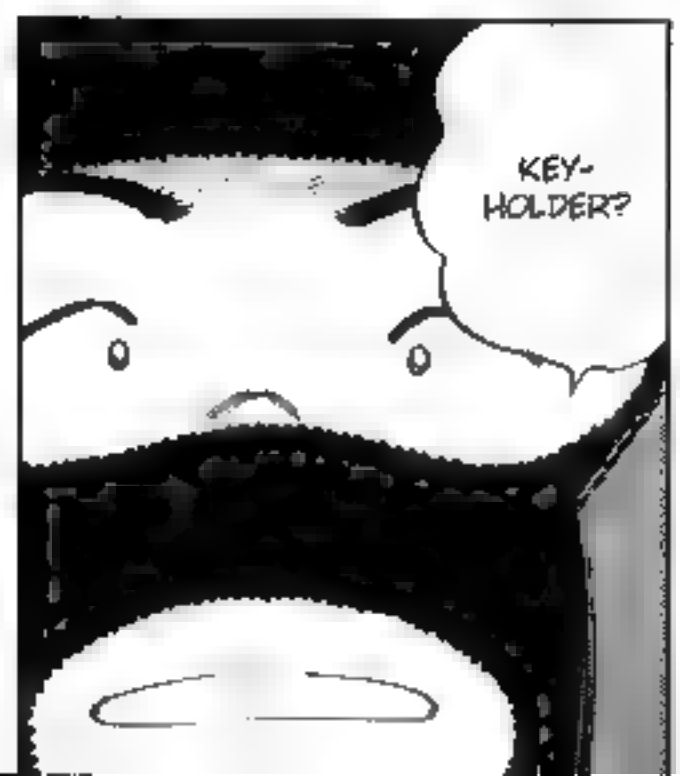

HEY, STOP!
ALL RIGHT, JUST A MOM-
HELLO
MAMA?

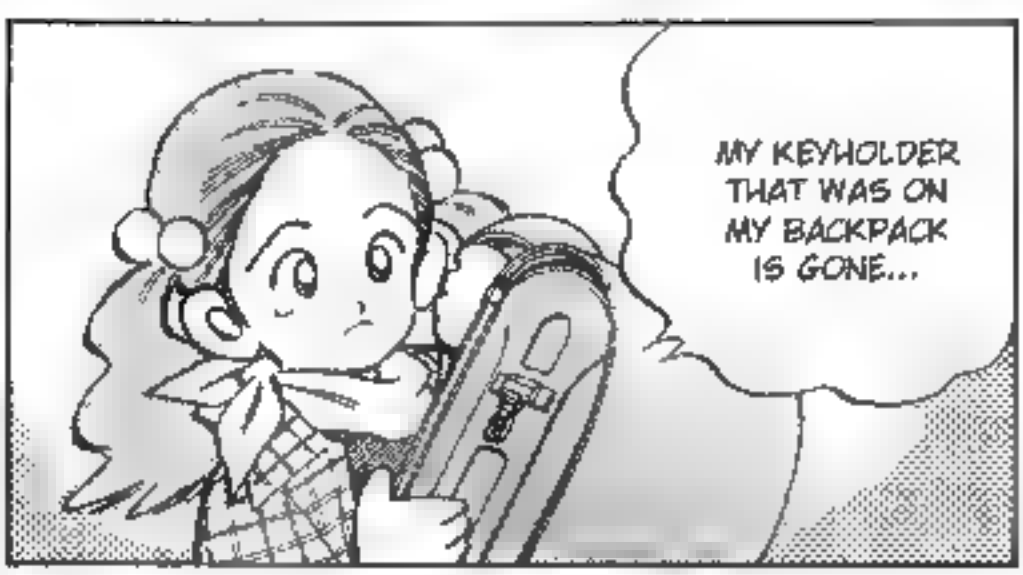
U-UMM...
COULD I HEAR MY DAUGHTER'S VOICE?

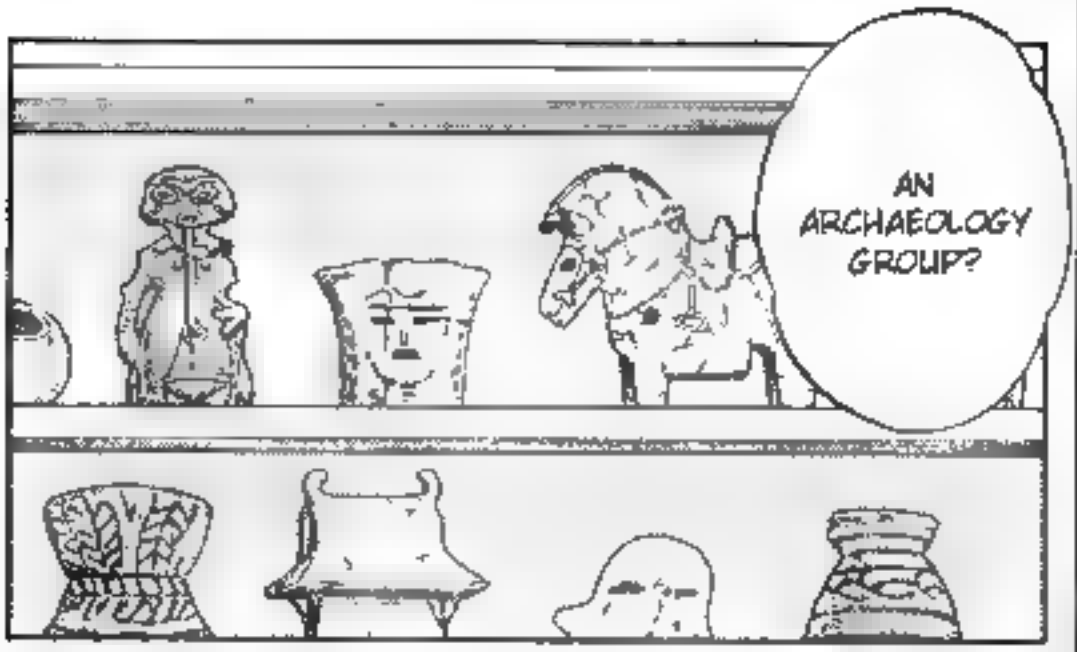

beep
REMEMBER TO RECORD "INU YATCHAN" AT 7 O'CLOCK TONIGHT
BYE BYE!

W-WHAT'S WRONG?

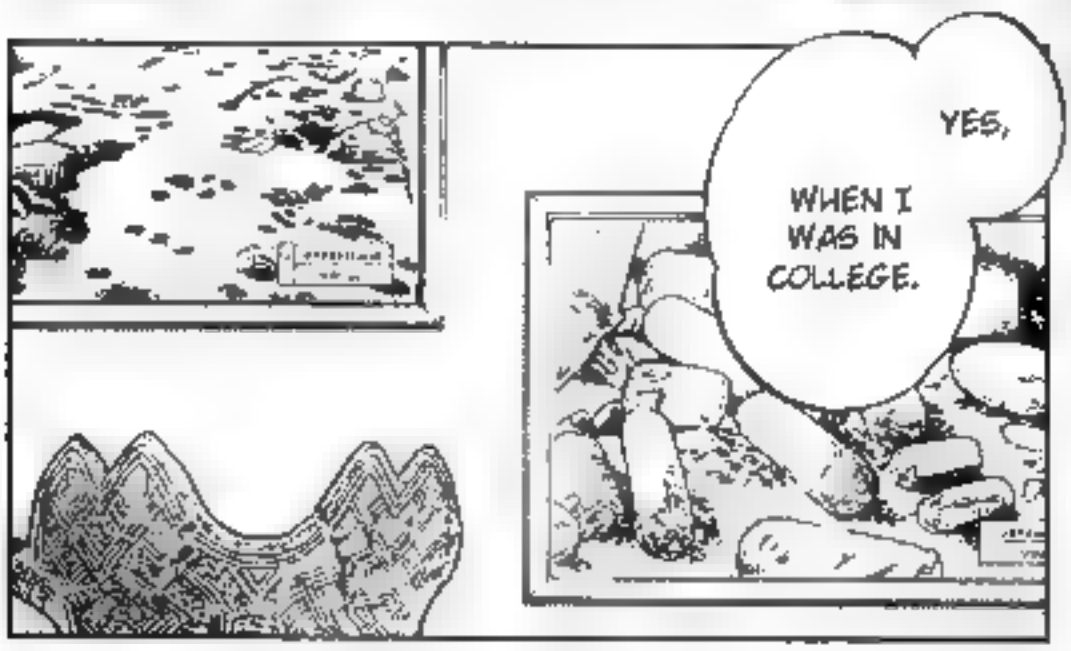

AH!
DON'T JUST HANG UP LIKE THAT!


KEY-HOLDER?


MY KEYHOLDER THAT WAS ON MY BACKPACK IS GONE...


AN ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP?

HANIWA
CLOSED


YES, WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE.

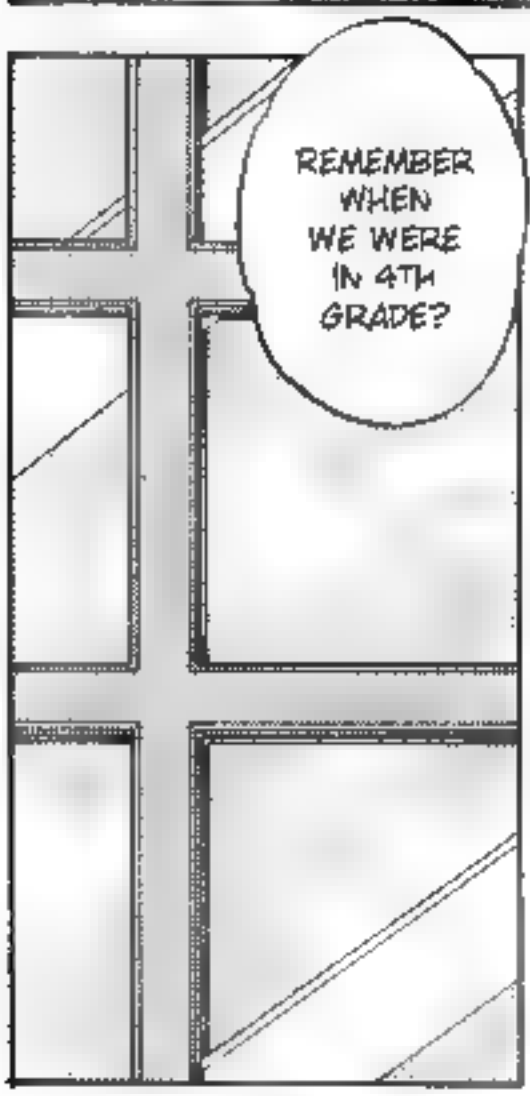
IN MY SOPHOMORE YEAR AT COLLEGE, THEY DISCOVERED SOME RUINS UNDER THE GROUND, SO WE WENT ON AN EXCAVATION TRIP BACK HERE.
THAT WAS A LOT OF FUN.

LOOK AT THIS PICTURE...

YEAH! I DO.
REMEM-BER IT?
IT'S THE HILL BEHIND OUR SCHOOL.

TOMOHIKO AND I USED TO CLIMB IT ALL THE TIME.
I REMEMBER THE DOUBLE-TRUNK PINE TREE.

IN THE END, WE DISCOVERED THAT THERE WASN'T MUCH TO BE LEARNED AT THE SITE, SO THE DIG WAS CALLED OFF.
WOW.


REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE IN 4TH GRADE?

HE USED TO BE SUCH A JERK...
TOMOHIKO UCHIMURA...

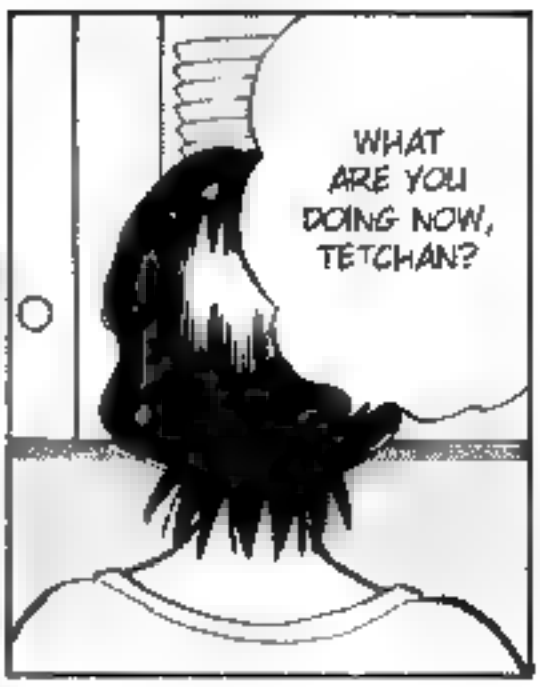
UH, DID HE GIVE YOU TROUBLE?

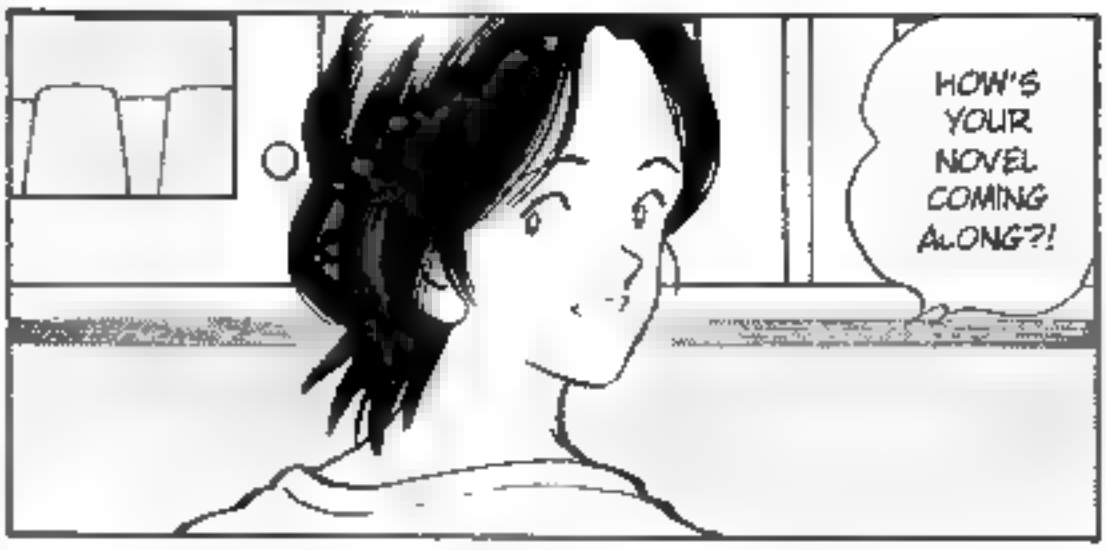
OHHH,
RIGHT.

THEY HELD THE EXPO.
WHAT HAP-PENED THEN?

OH... NO LUCK.
I'VE SENT IT AROUND TO PUBLISHERS AND CONTESTS, BUT NO CIGAR.
GUESS IT'LL ALWAYS BE A HOBBY.

OH, ME?
WELL, NOTHING REALLY...


WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW, TETCHAN?


HOW'S YOUR NOVEL COMING ALONG?!

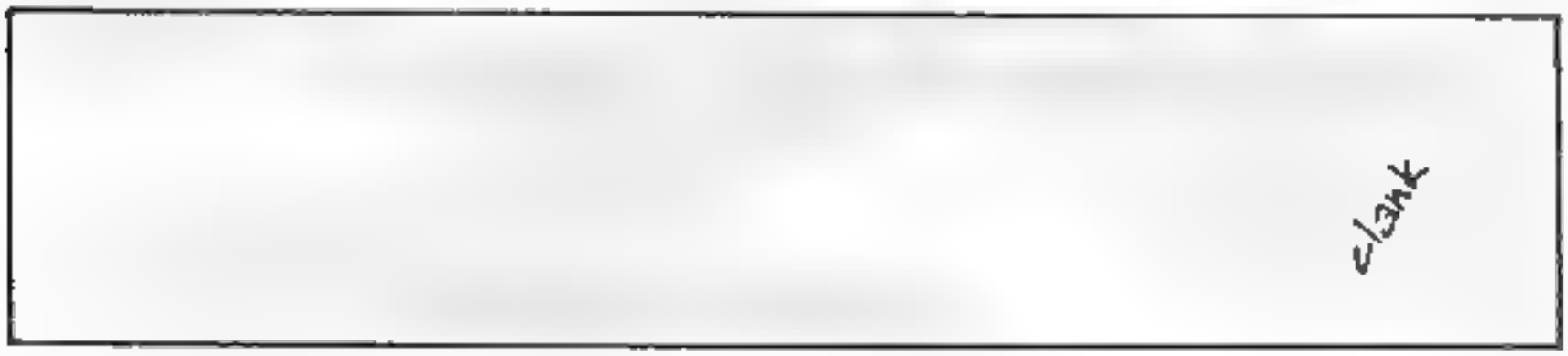
...

OH, THEN TAKE THIS.
OOPS, TIME TO GET GOING.

FUNAKI.

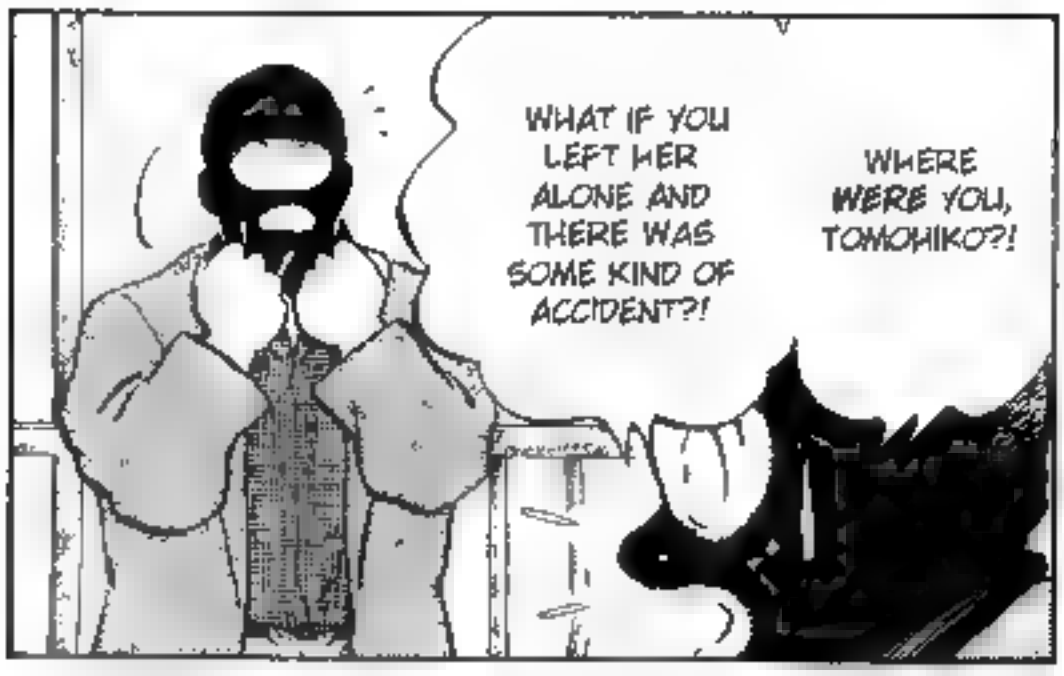
GOOD.

I'M SURE TSUKASA WILL COME BACK TO YOU SAFE AND SOUND.
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.


clank

H-
HUH?

CLANG
CLANG


WHAT IF YOU LEFT HER ALONE AND THERE WAS SOME KIND OF ACCIDENT?!
WHERE WERE YOU, TOMOHIKO?!

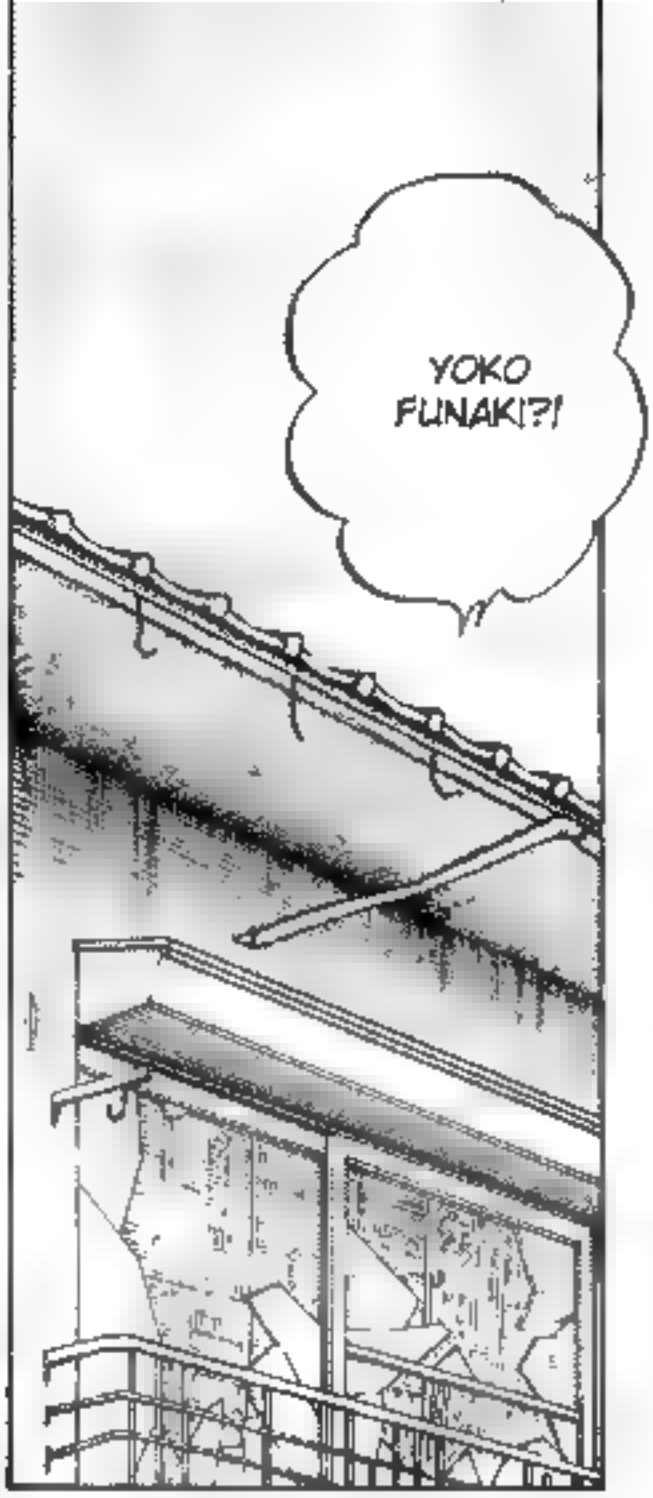
I'M GOING TO THE MONEY HANDOFF SPOT.
SORRY, SORRY.

HUH.

HUH?

rustle

THE OLD SCHOOL CLASSMATE SHE RAN INTO WAS...
THEN,
THE ONE YOU ALWAYS MADE CRY.
THAT'S RIGHT!

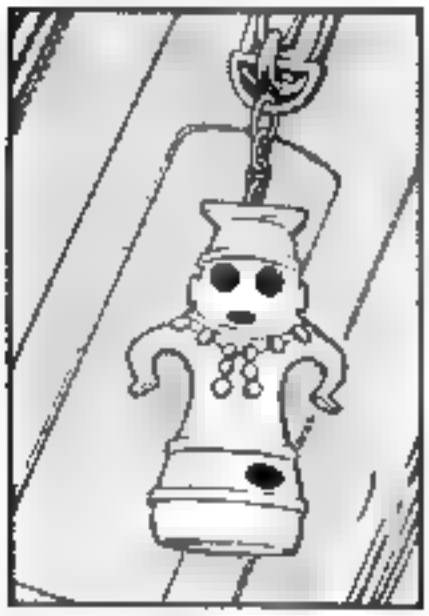

YOKO FUNAKI?!

...IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW.

FOR SOME REA-SON...
I THOUGHT THAT GIRL LOOKED FAMILIAR,

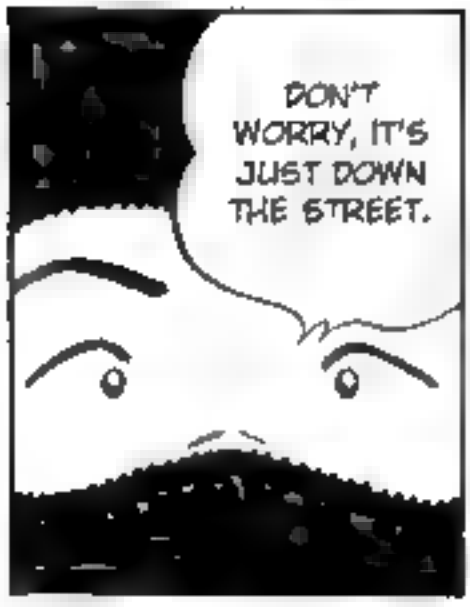
beep
beep
beep

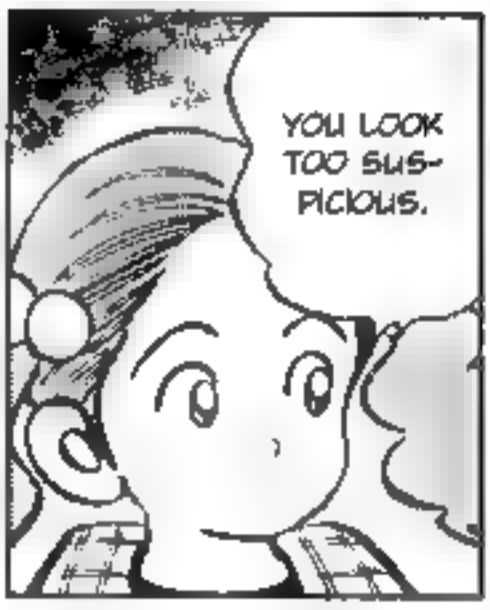
OKAY,
GOODBYE.



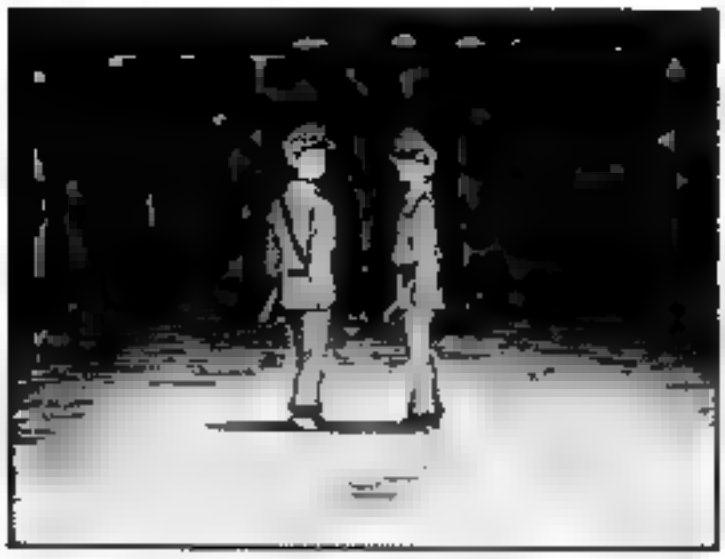
SCREEK

I'LL JUST TAKE YOU A BRIGHTER, MORE POPULATED STREET.
ACTU-ALLY!


DON'T WORRY, IT'S JUST DOWN THE STREET.


YOU LOOK TOO SUS-PICIOUS.

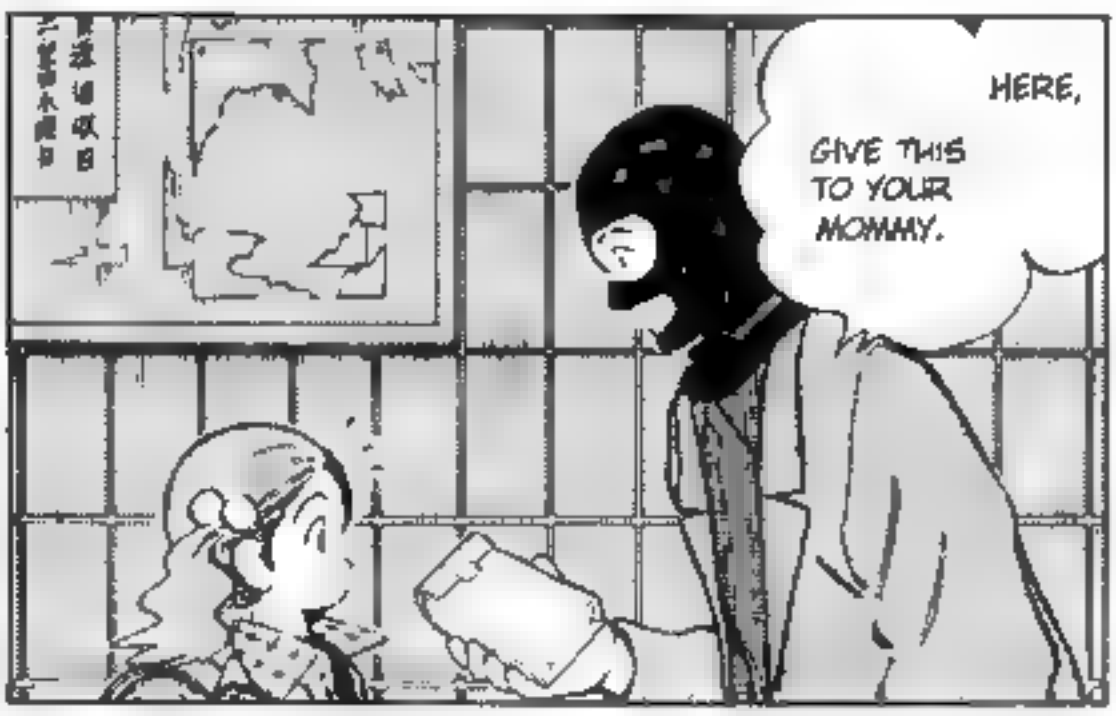
...



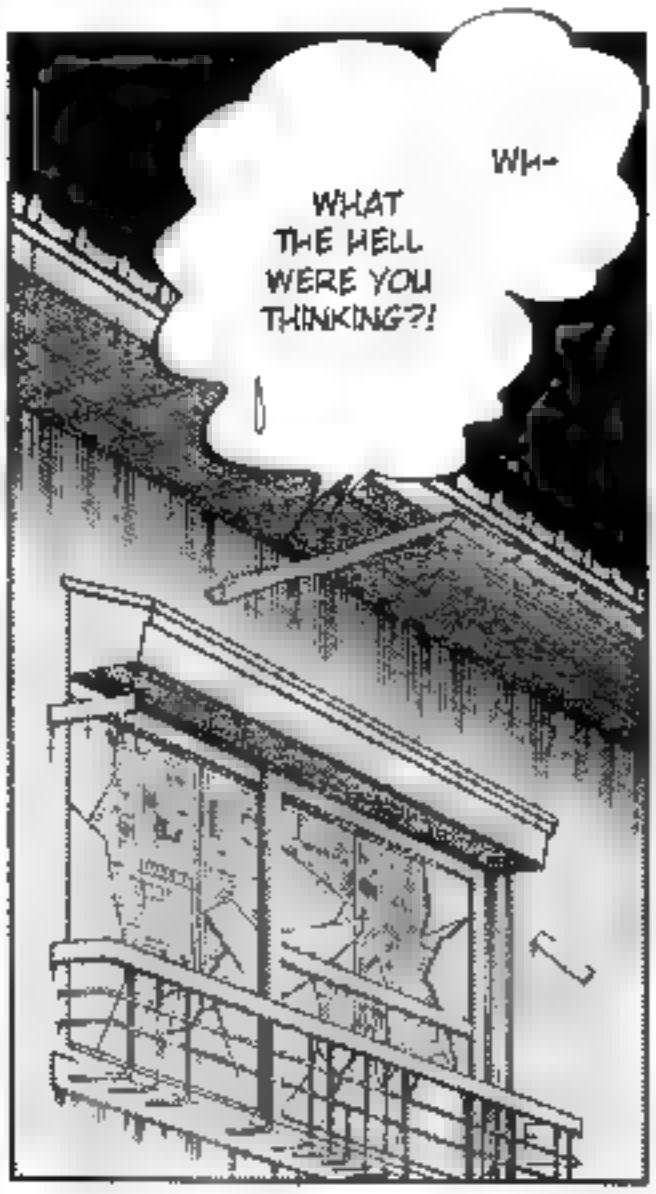
COME ON PAPA.
THIS WAY!

WHEWW.

THE OTHER MAN GAVE ME SOME, TOO.


HERE,
GIVE THIS TO YOUR MOMMY.

HOW DID FUNAKI KNOW?
IT'S SO STRANGE...


WH-
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING?!

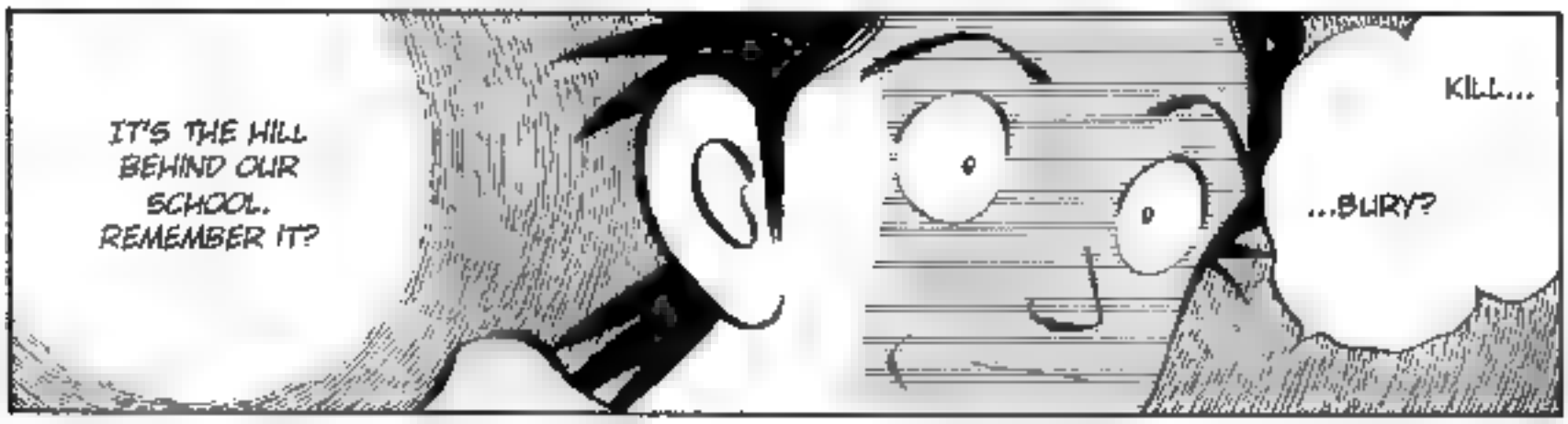
THAT I WANTED TO BE A WRITER...

ABOUT WHAT?

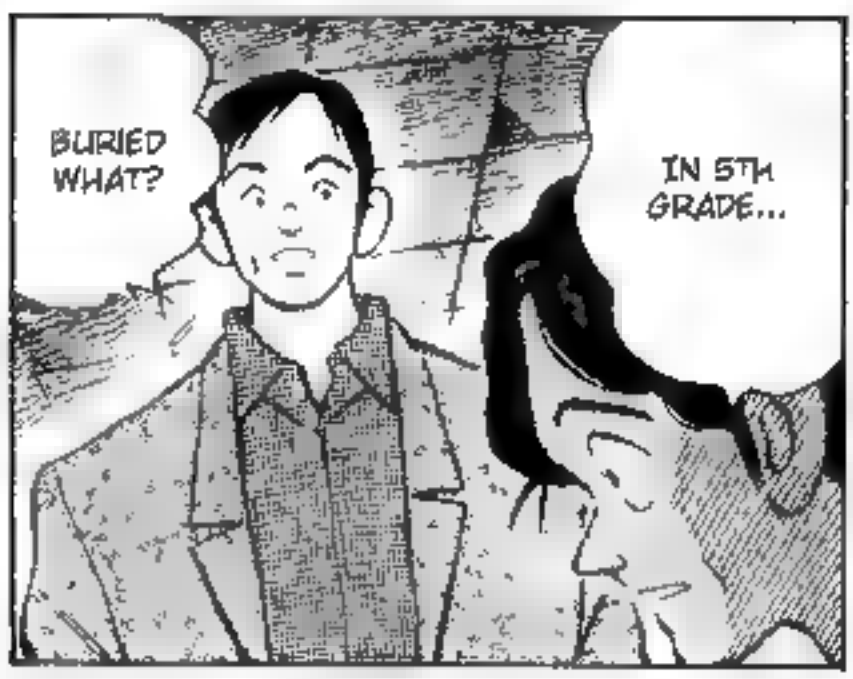
I DON'T NEED THE MONEY,
BUT YOU DO, OR ELSE THEY'LL KILL YOU!

WHO CARES ABOUT THAT NOW?!
I DIDN'T EVEN TELL YOU UNTIL AFTER HIGH SCHOOL...
TRUE, I'D WANTED TO BE ONE SINCE I WAS A KID, BUT I NEVER EVEN TOLD MY PARENTS.

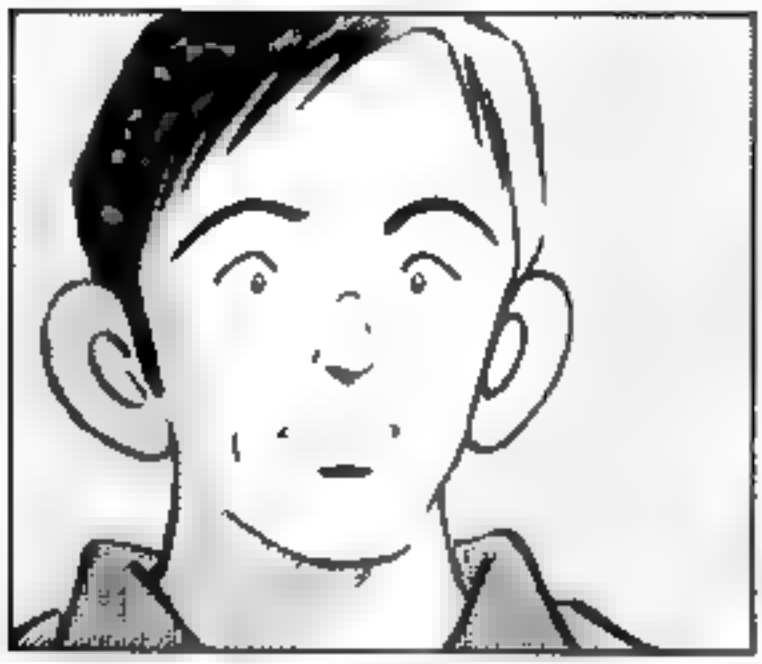
IF THEY KILLED EVERYONE WHO BORROWED MONEY FROM THEM, THEY'D NEVER GET ANY BUSINESS.
YEAH, BUT THEY ALWAYS SAY THEY'RE GOING TO KILL YOU, OR BURY YOU, OR SINK YOU IN THE OCEAN.


IT'S THE HILL BEHIND OUR SCHOOL. REMEMBER IT?
KILL...
...BURY?

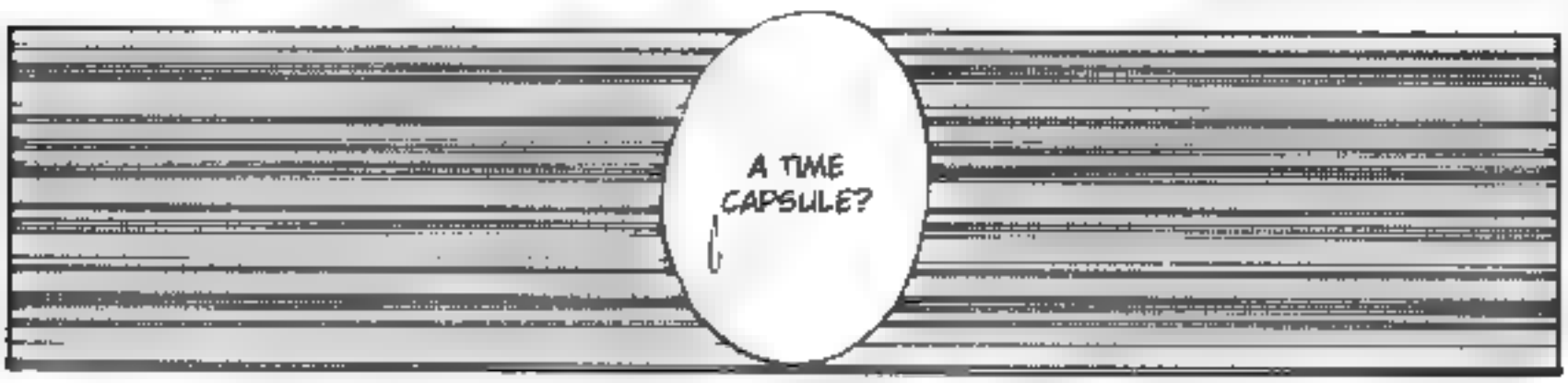
HUH?


BURIED WHAT?
IN 5TH GRADE...

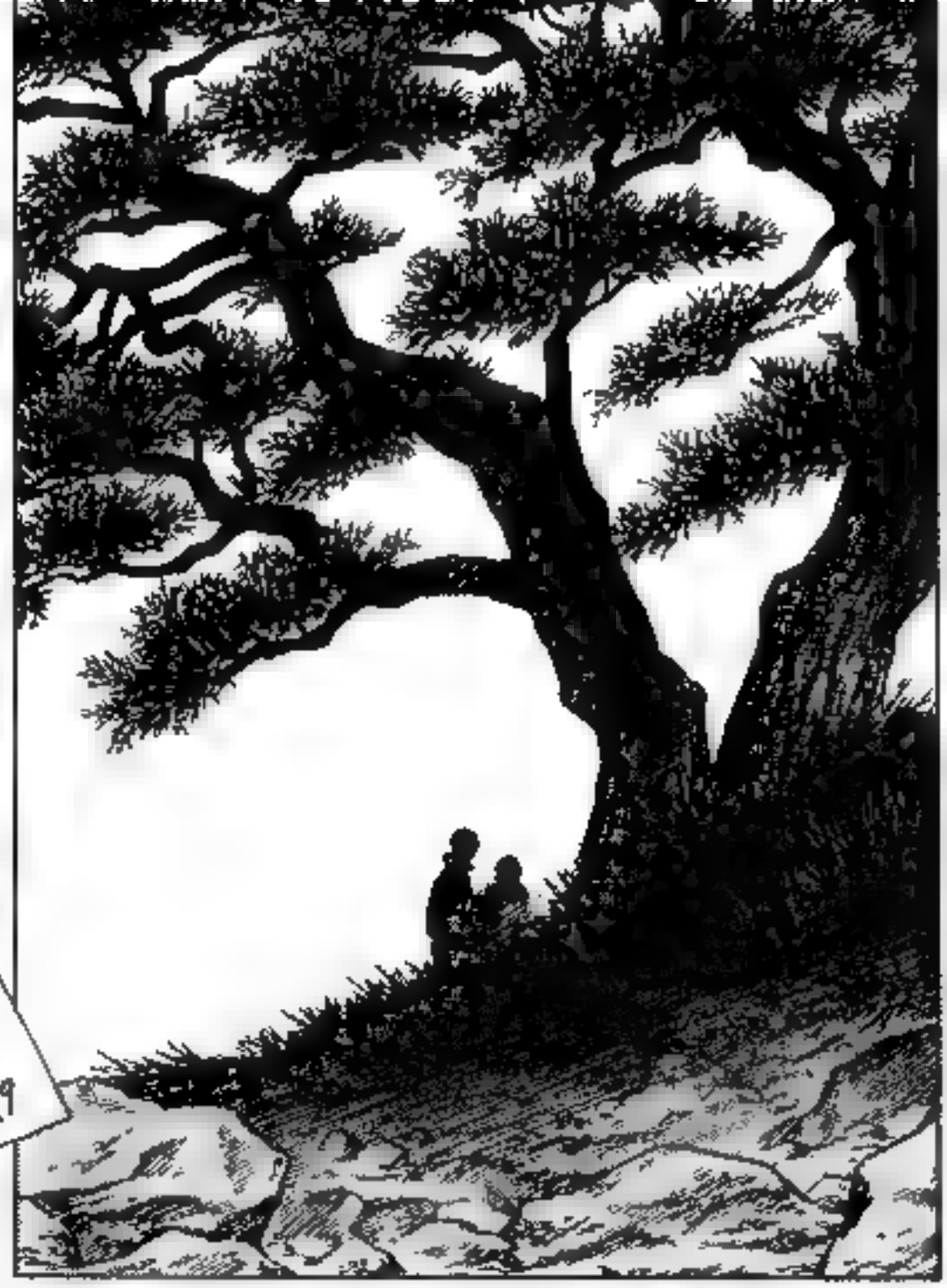
IN MY SOPHOMORE YEAR AT COLLEGE, THEY DISCOVERED SOME RUINS UNDER THE GROUND,
SO WE WENT ON AN EXCAVATION TRIP BACK HERE.
WE BURIED IT.

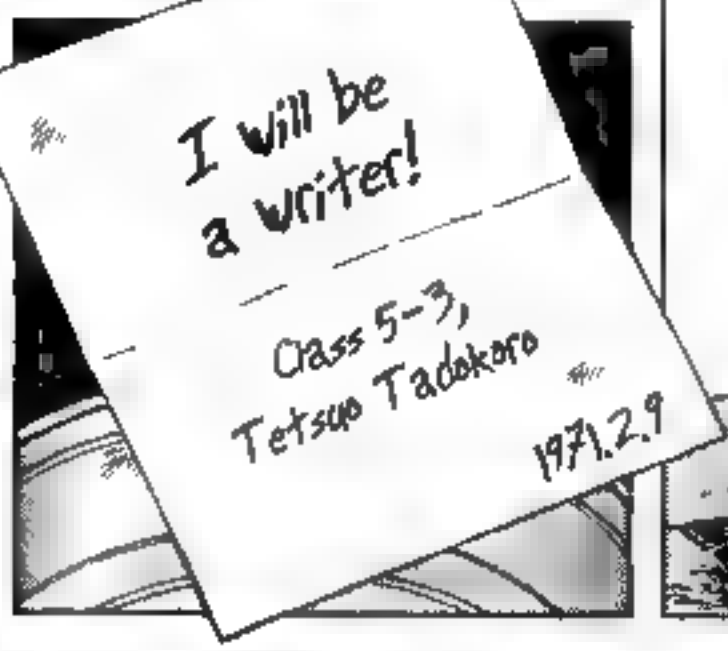


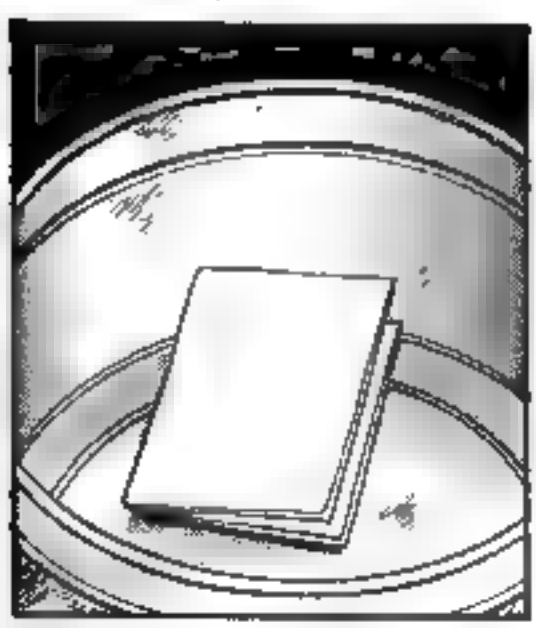
REMEMBER HOW EVERY-ONE WANTED TO DO THAT THING YOU'D DIG UP YEARS AND YEARS LATER?
THE EXPO WAS THE YEAR BEFORE.

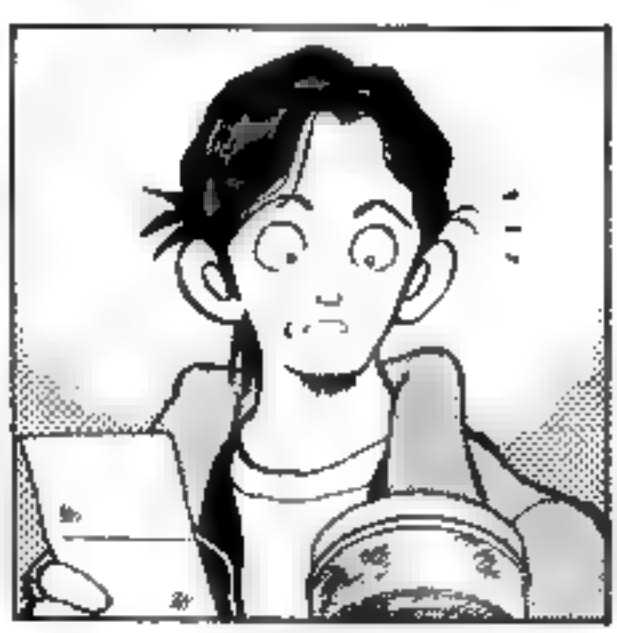

A TIME CAPSULE?

YEAH.
WE WROTE OUR DREAMS ON A PIECE OF PAPER,
AND BURIED THEM UNDER THE DOUBLE-TRUNK PINE TREE ON THE HILL BEHIND THE SCHOOL.




I will be
a writer!
Class 5-3,
Tetsuo Tadokoro
1971.2.9





..I KNEW IT.

Good luck,
Tetchan!
Yoko
Funaki
1980 7.10

I will marry Yoko Funaki!

Class 4-3, Tomohiko Uchimura

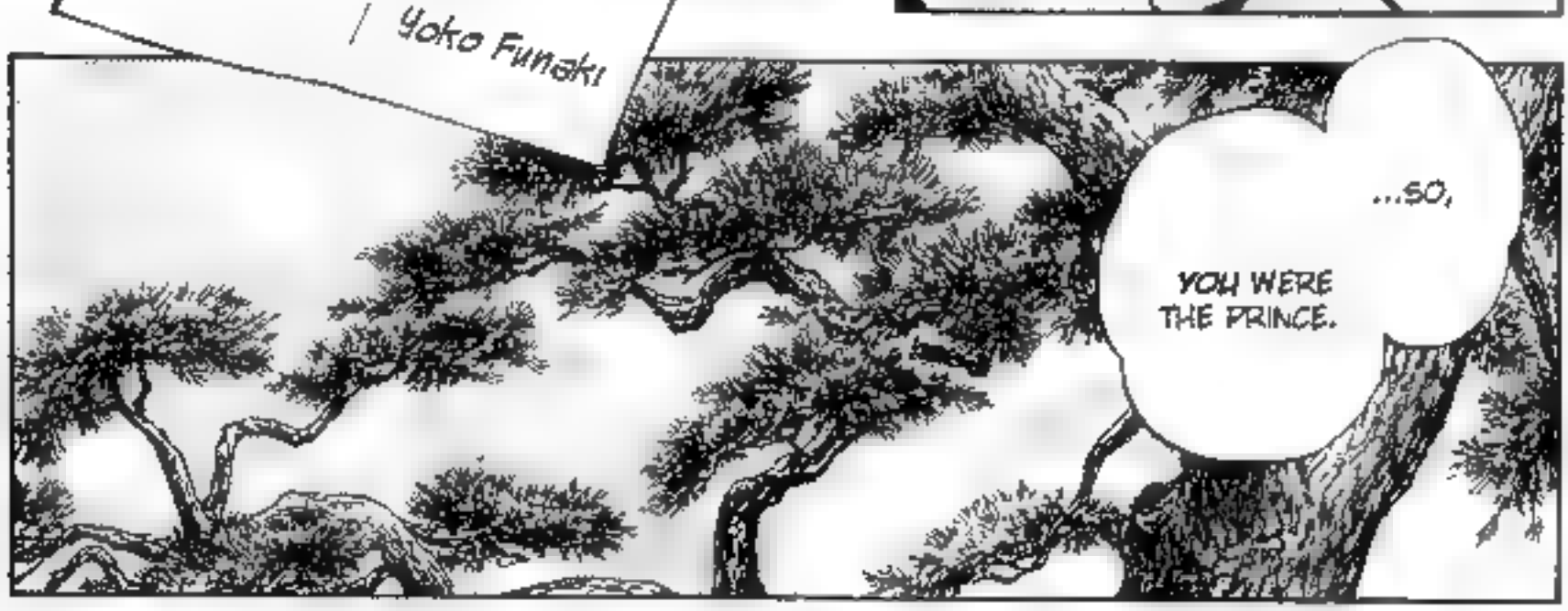
1971.2.9

Thank you Tomo, I love you too ♡

Come and marry me before I'm 30!

1980.7.10

Yoko Funaki



I'M GOING HOME.
TO MY OWN PLACE.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

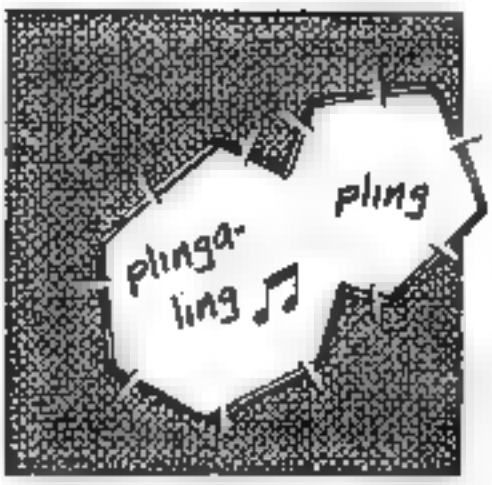
SLAM

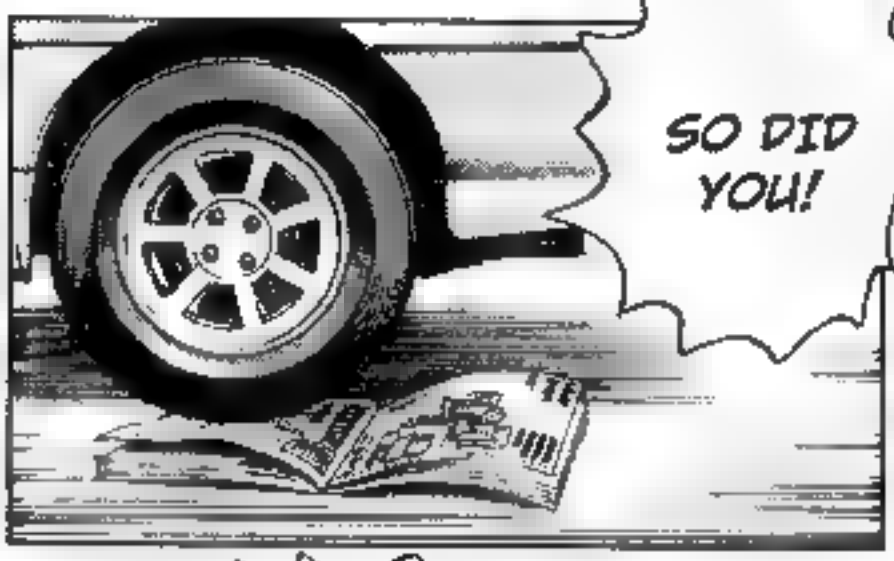
TO TETSUO TADOKORO
We have an urgent notice for you. Please contact us below immediately
AKANA PUBLISHING "NOVEL BIG" TSUZUKI
03-3230-XXXX

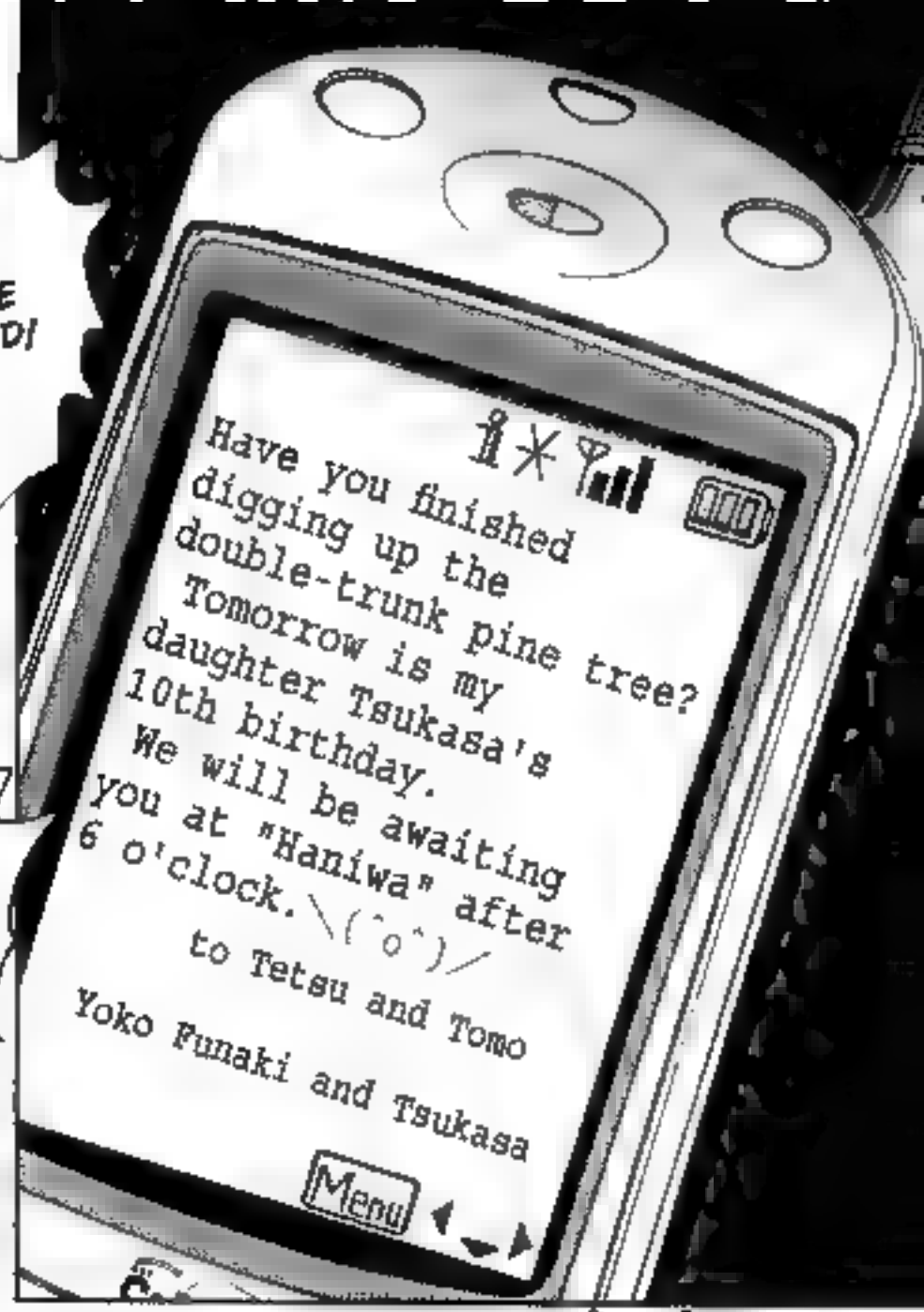
301
TETSUO TADOKORO
I BET THE DOOR IS PLASTERED WITH SIGNS FROM THE LOAN AGENCY, THOUGH...
JACKASS!
GIVE US BACK OUR MONEY, THIEF!
DIE PUNK
301
This is a bad man

IT'S AN EMAIL.
I FORGOT TO GIVE THE GIRL BACK HER CELL-PHONE!
OOPS!

THEY CAN BURY ME, OR SINK ME, OR WHATEVER WITH YOU.
I'LL COME WITH YOU.


pling
plinga-ling ♫

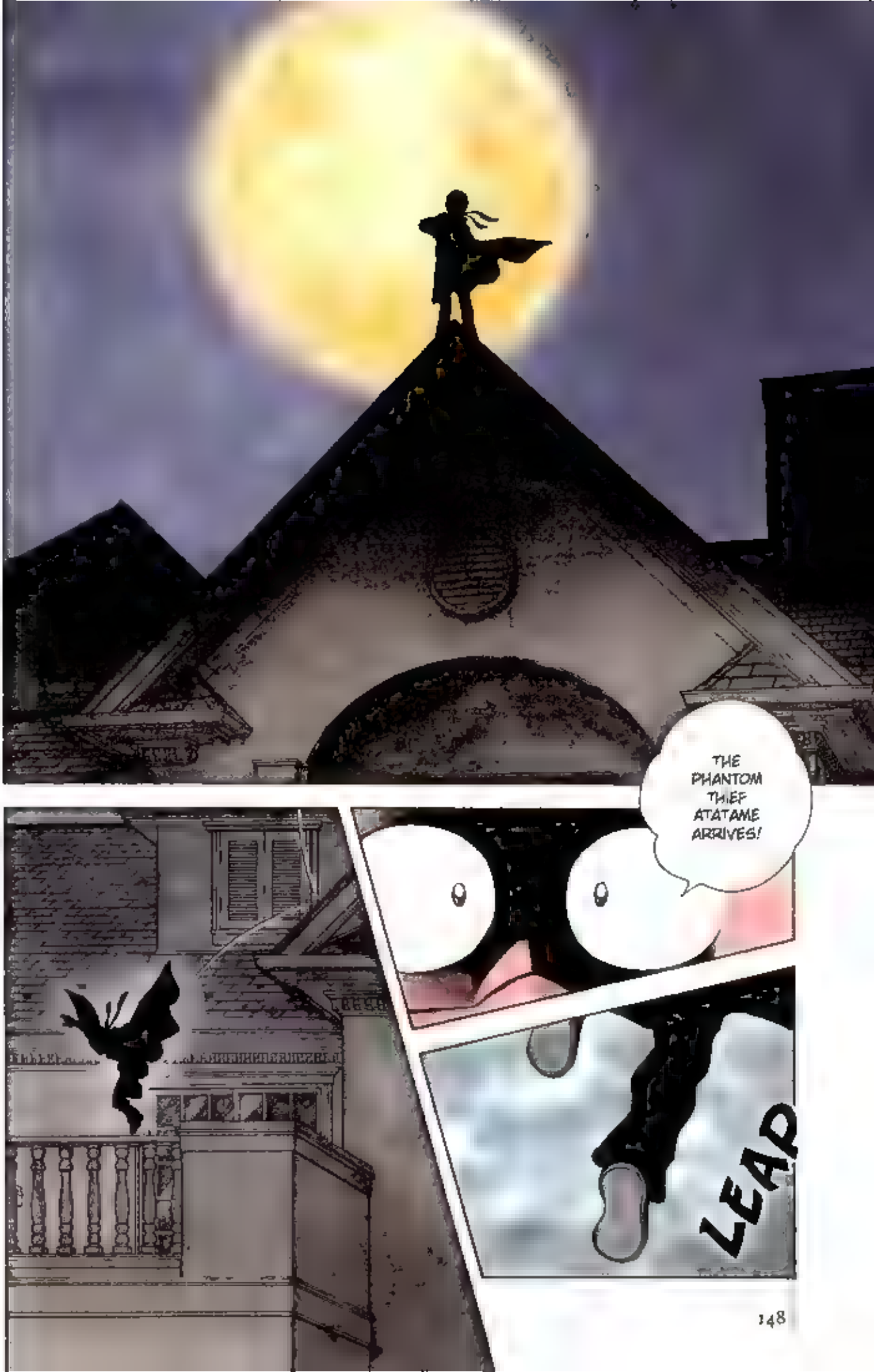


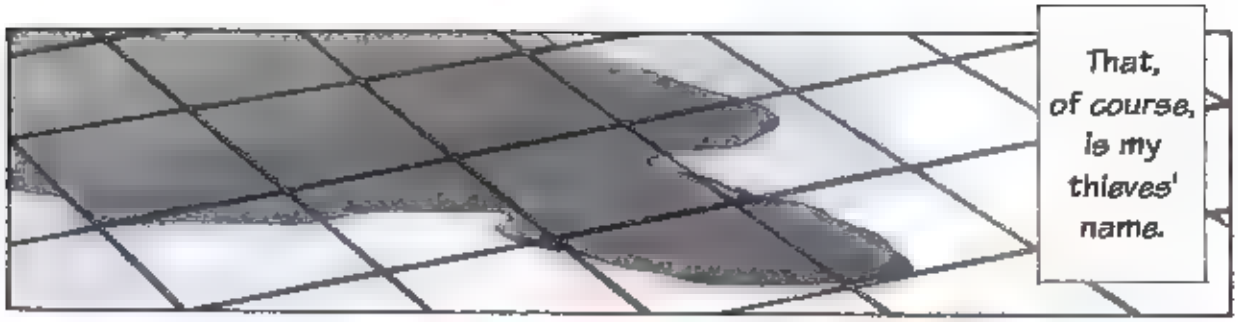


- Chapter 5 End -

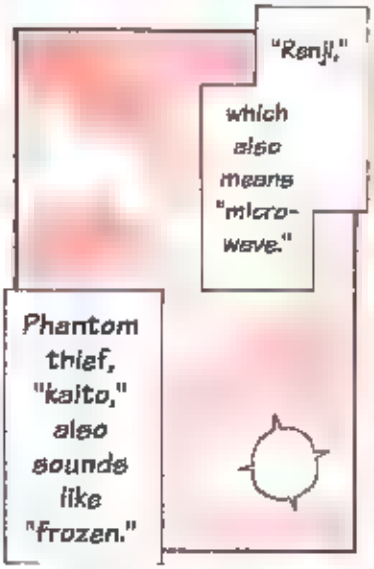
CHAPTER 6

THE STAIRS OF TIME


THE PHANTOM THIEF ATATAME ARRIVES!
LEAD


That, of course, is my thieves' name.

IT'S ALL ONE BIG PUN.
AND "ATATAME" MEANS HEAT UP

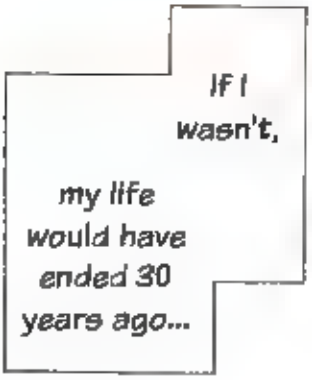

"Renji," which also means "micro-wave."
Phantom thief, "kaito," also sounds like "frozen."

My real name is Renji Haya-kawa.

LUCKY ME! ♡

SHH...

Yes...
I am lucky, all right.


If I wasn't, my life would have ended 30 years ago...

The day that my father tried to escape his debts forever,
taking me with him...
When I regained consciousness a month later, I found clutched in my hand...
A guardian spirit...
My memories before the crash never came back,
but I miraculously survived, thanks to this trinket.

In comparison, my father was fatally unlucky.

If he had been able to resist committing suicide for just a few hours, he could have set the company aright...

From what I heard later, about the instant his car plunged off that cliff,

an enormous order was placed with his company.

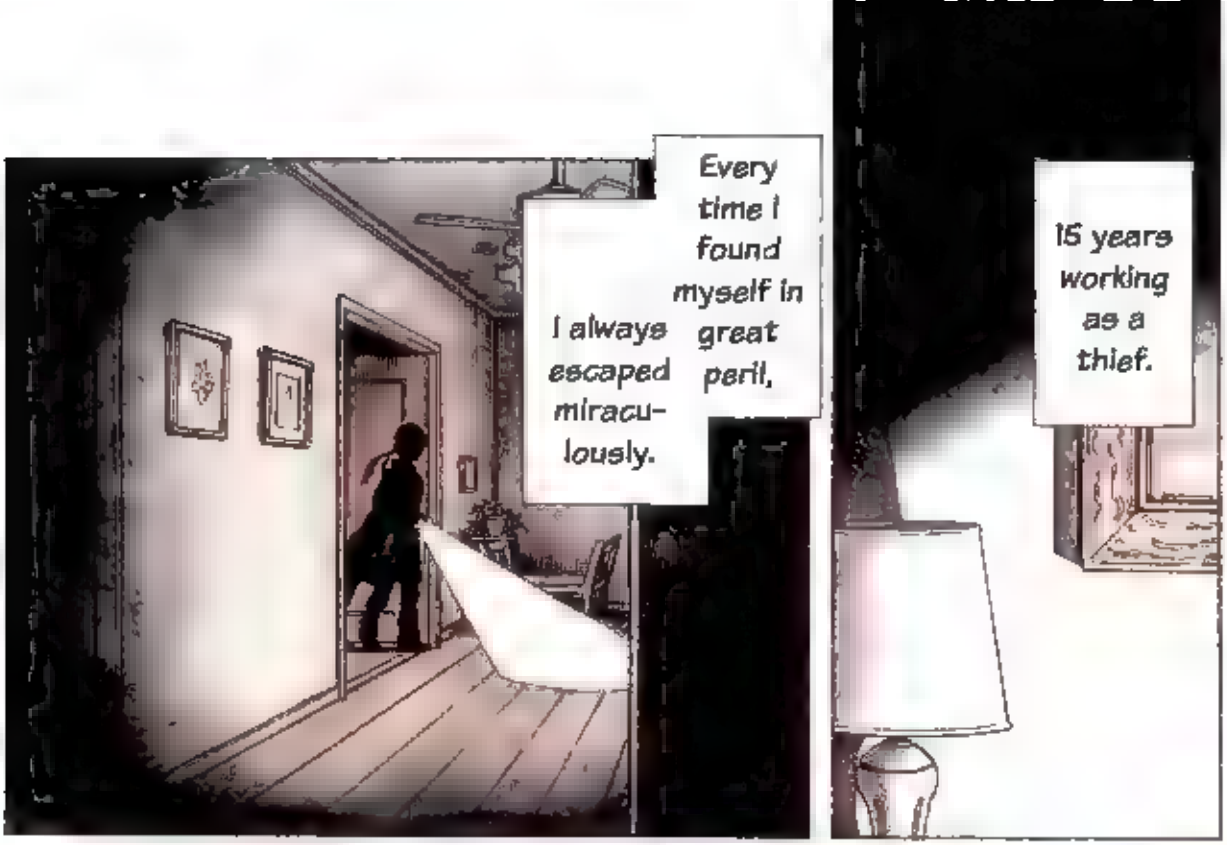
Now eternally alone, I was placed in an orphanage.

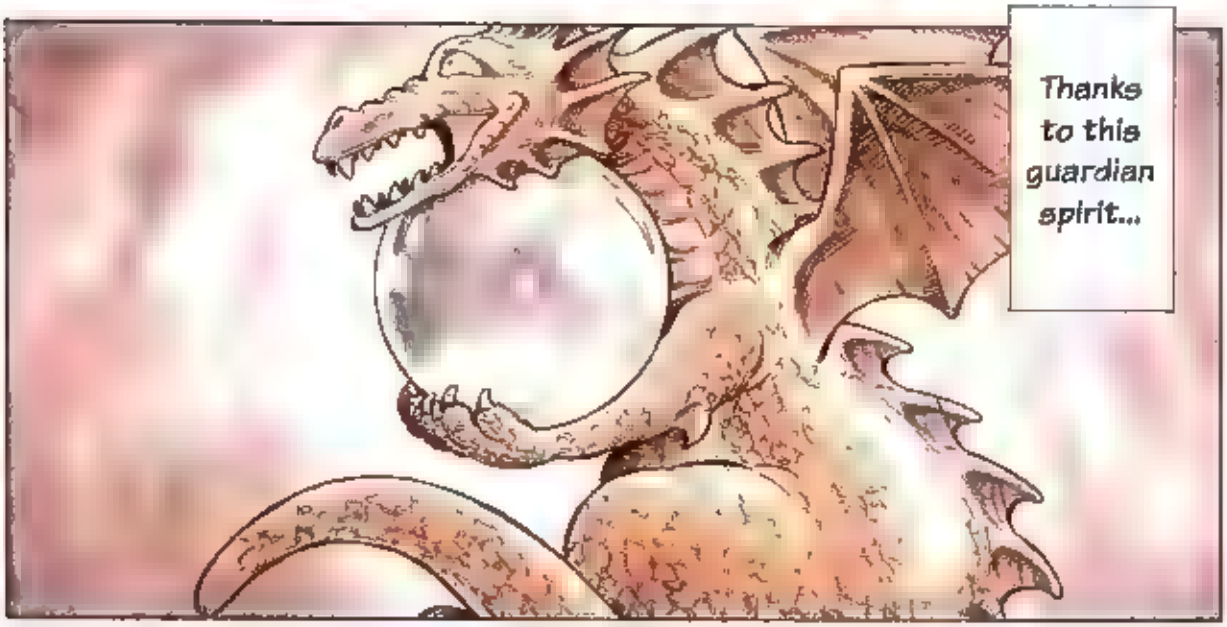
I'll leave the rest of my life to your imagination...

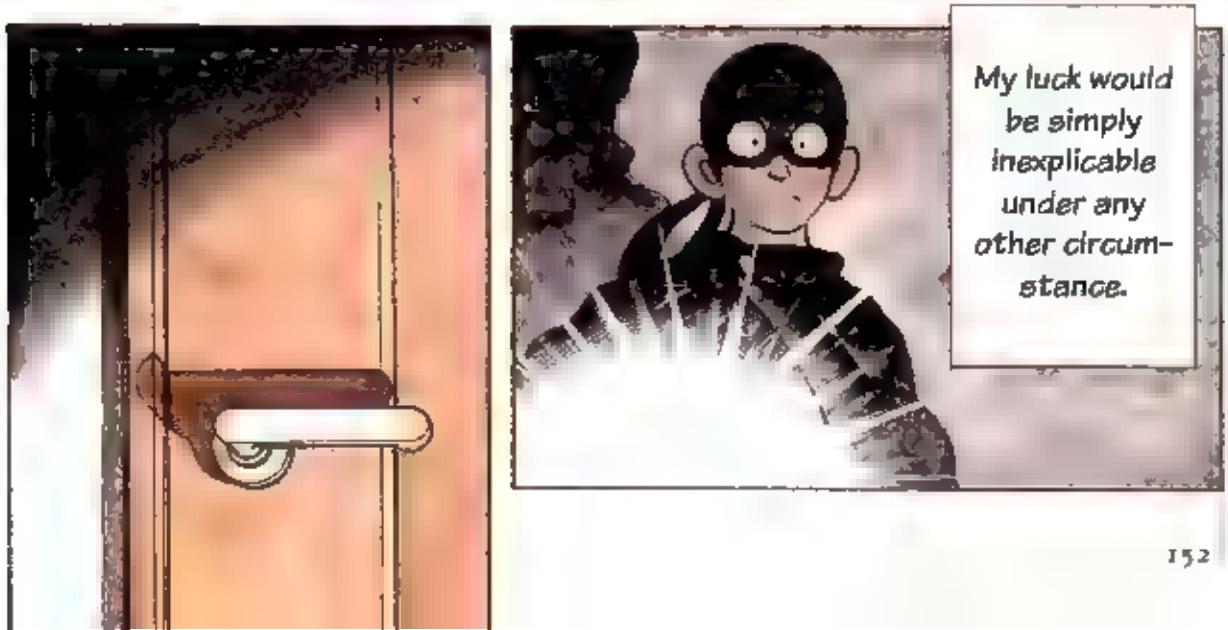
The only thing you need to know

is that in everything I did, mostly wicked of course,

I never failed. Not once.


Every time I found myself in great peril, I always escaped miraculously.
15 years working as a thief.

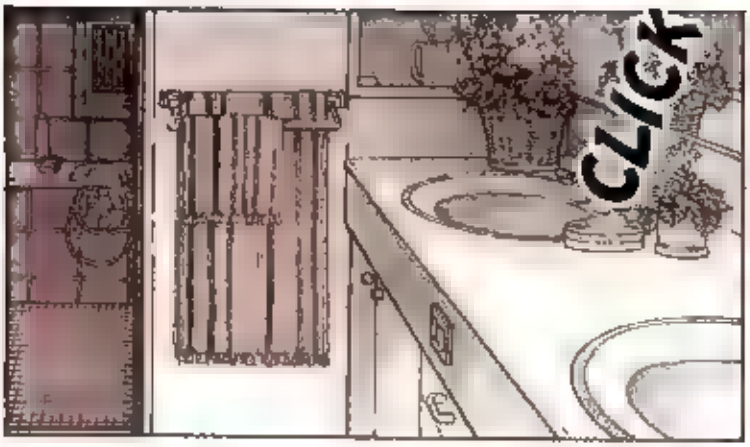

Thanks to this guardian spirit...


My luck would be simply inexplicable under any other circumstance.

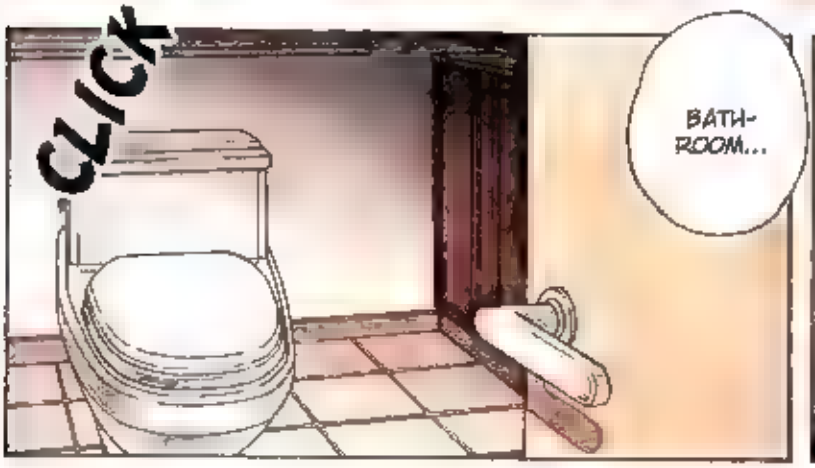
...

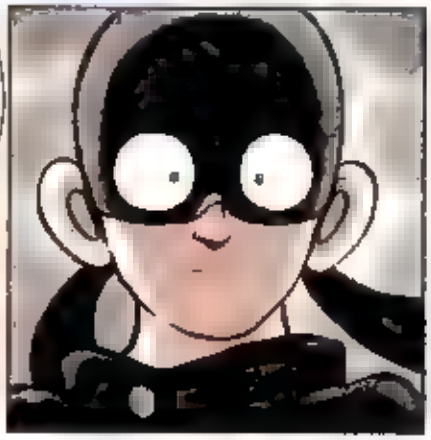
WHOOPS, THIS IS THE MASTER BEDROOM.

HUH?

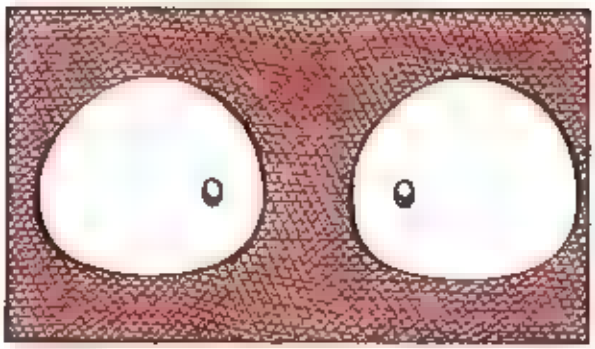

CLICK

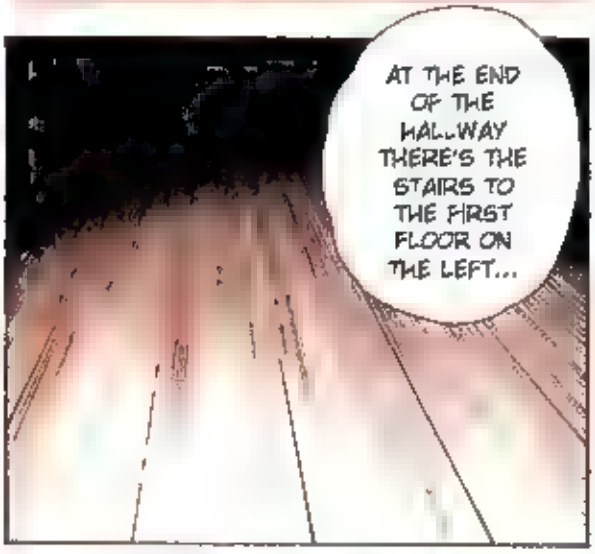
WASHROOM WITH BATH...

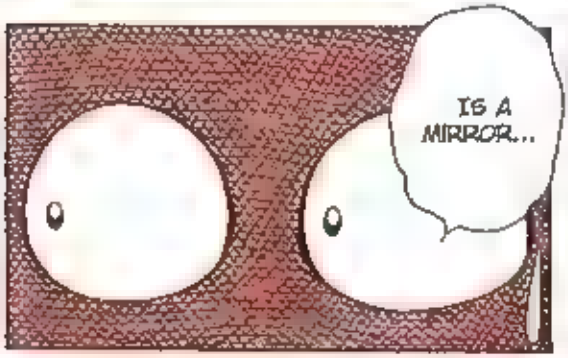

CLICK
BATH-ROOM...



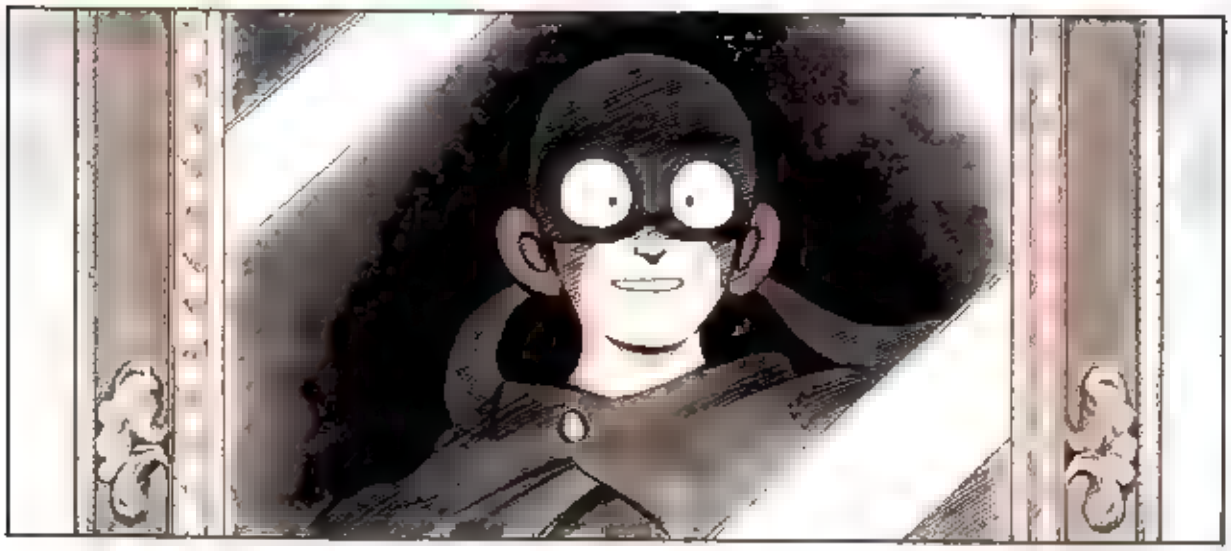
...



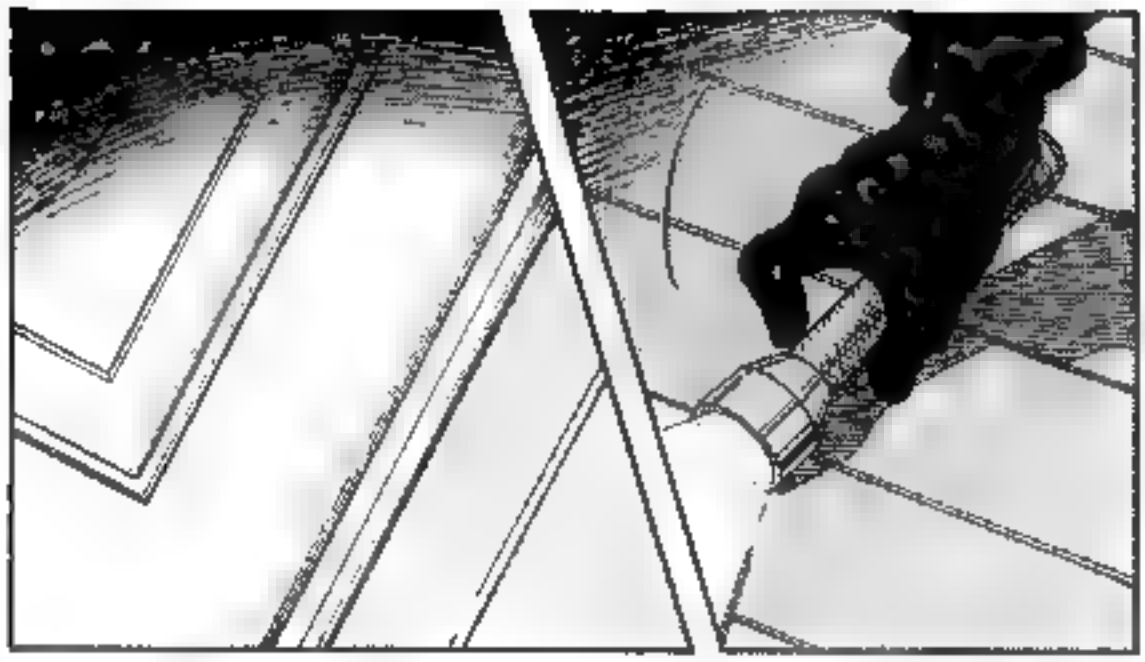

AT THE END OF THE HALLWAY THERE'S THE STAIRS TO THE FIRST FLOOR ON THE LEFT...

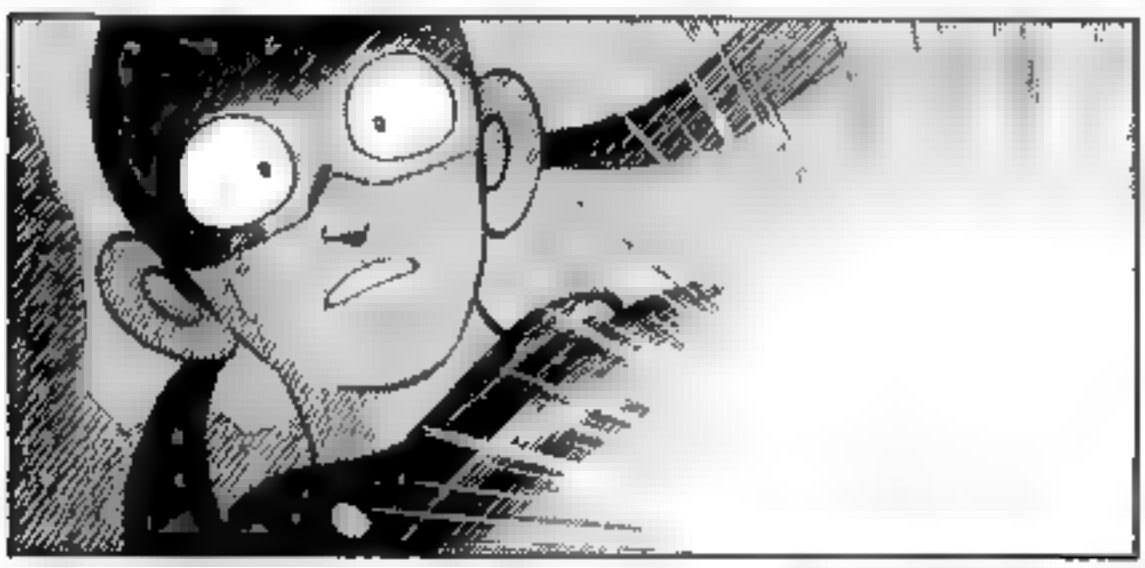

IS A MIRROR...

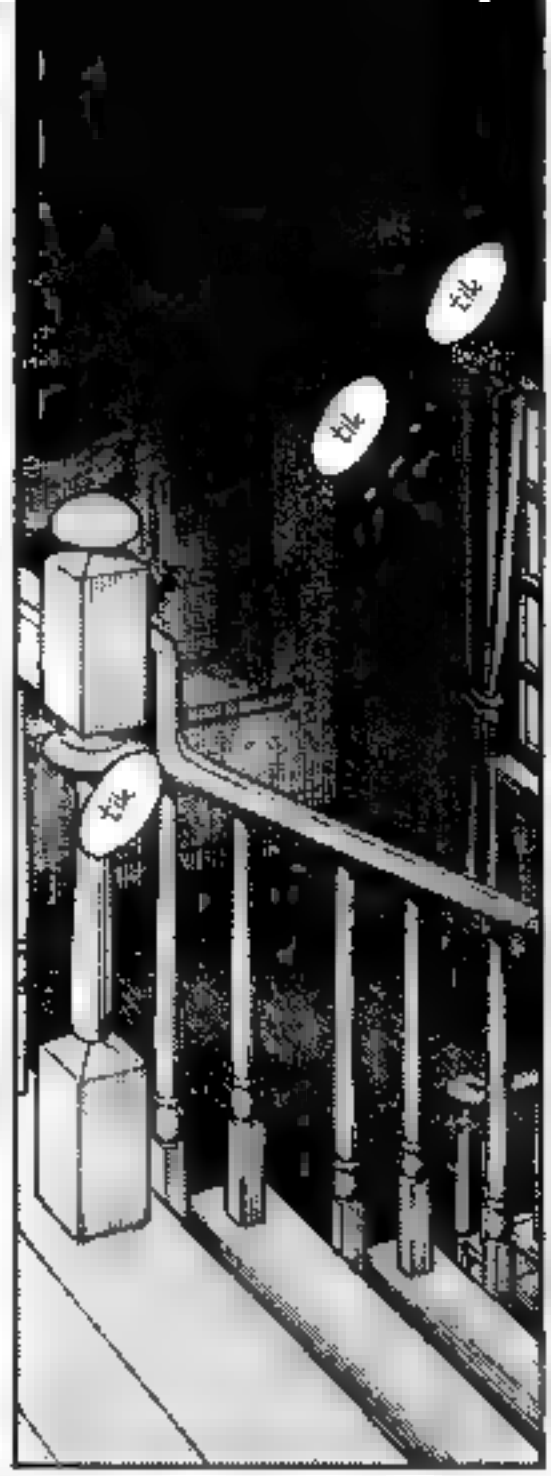
AND, ON THE WALL TO THE RIGHT...



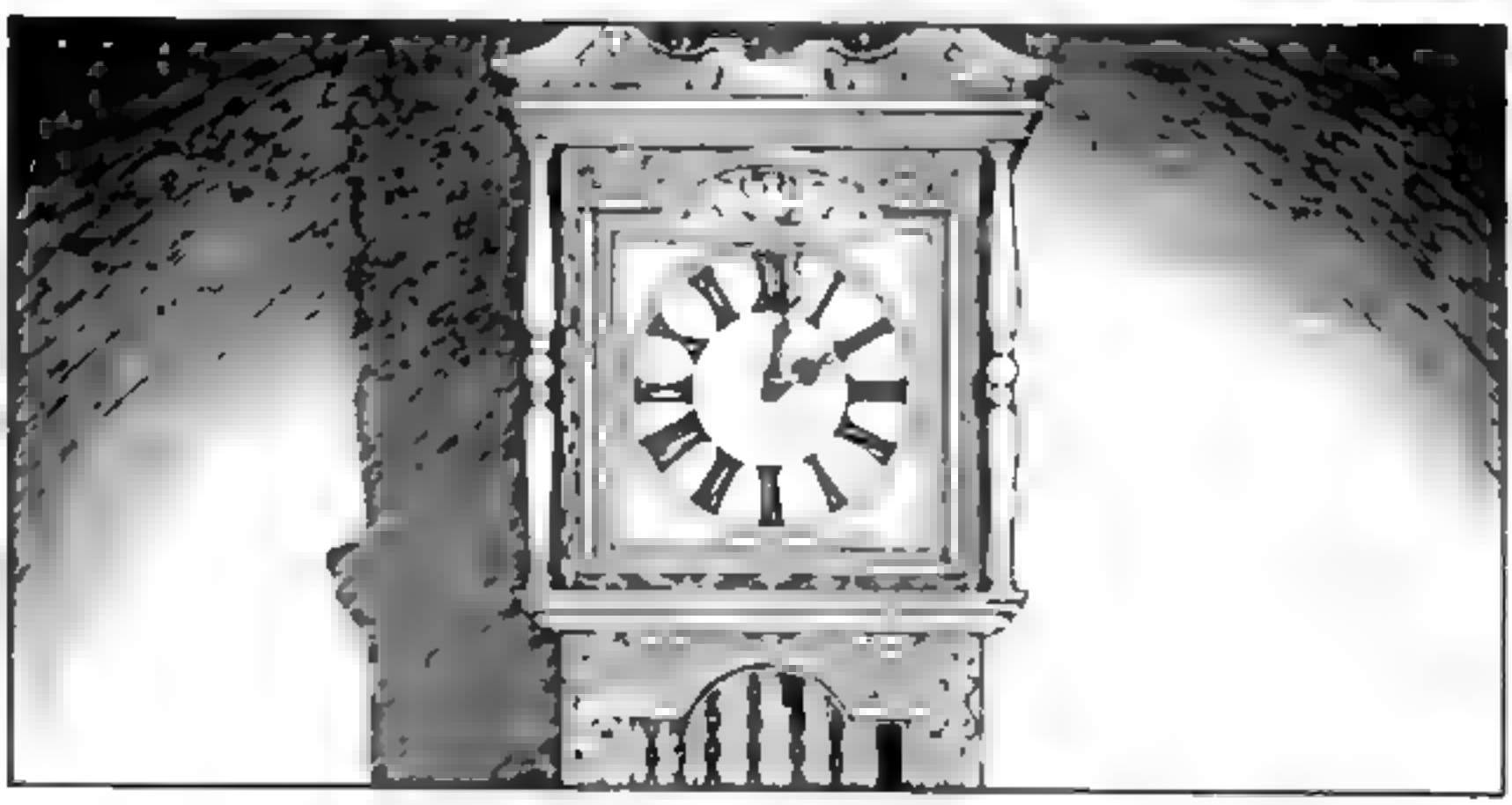
O G
BNGGGG
THUNK
EEEK!
O G
BNGGGG

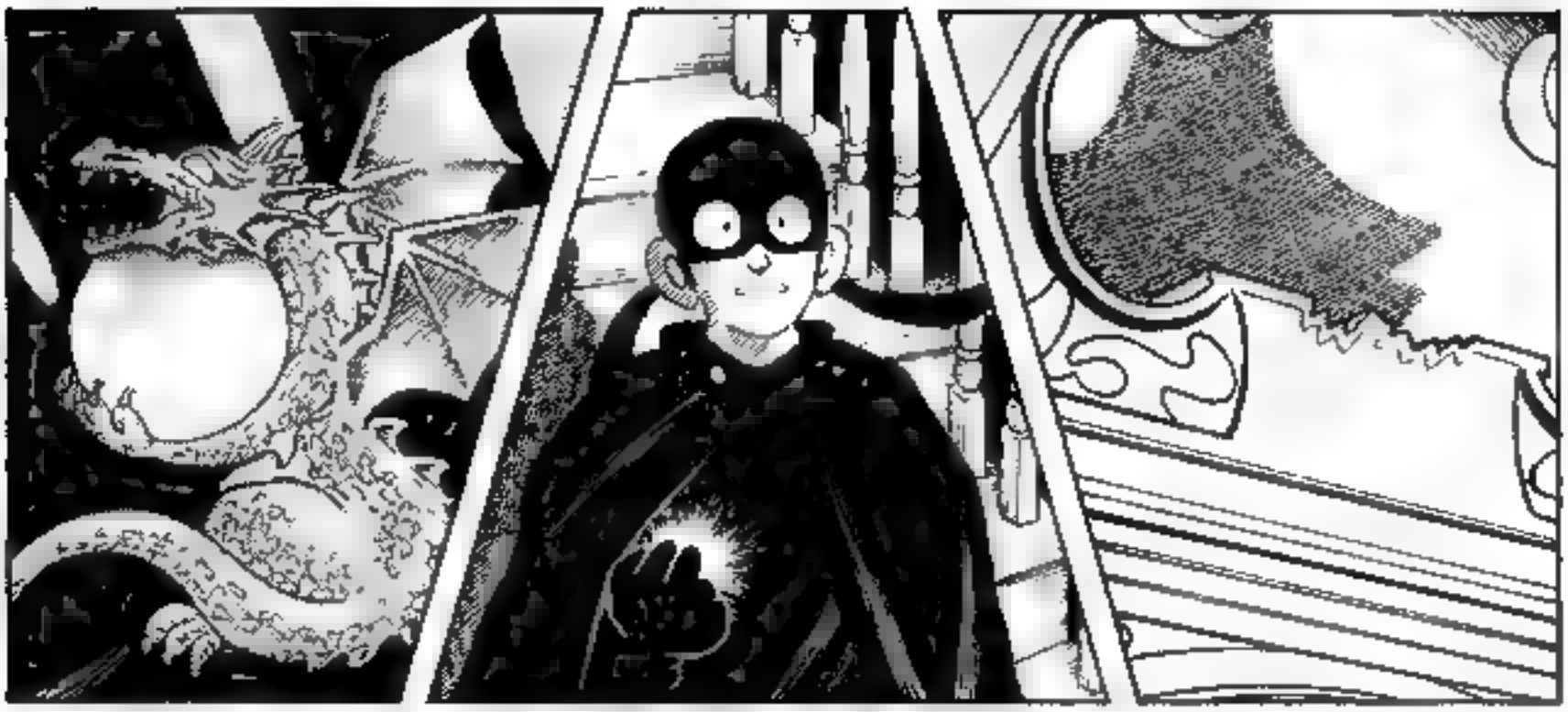




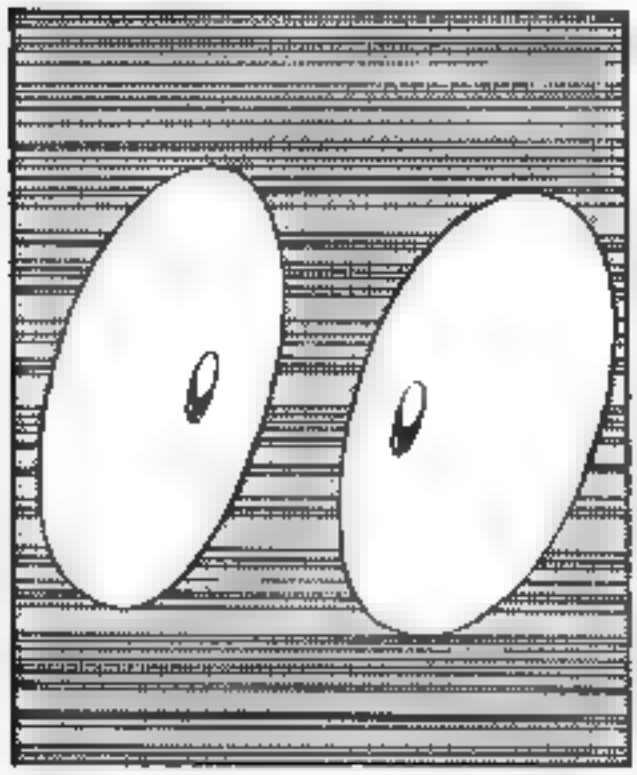

tik
tik
tik

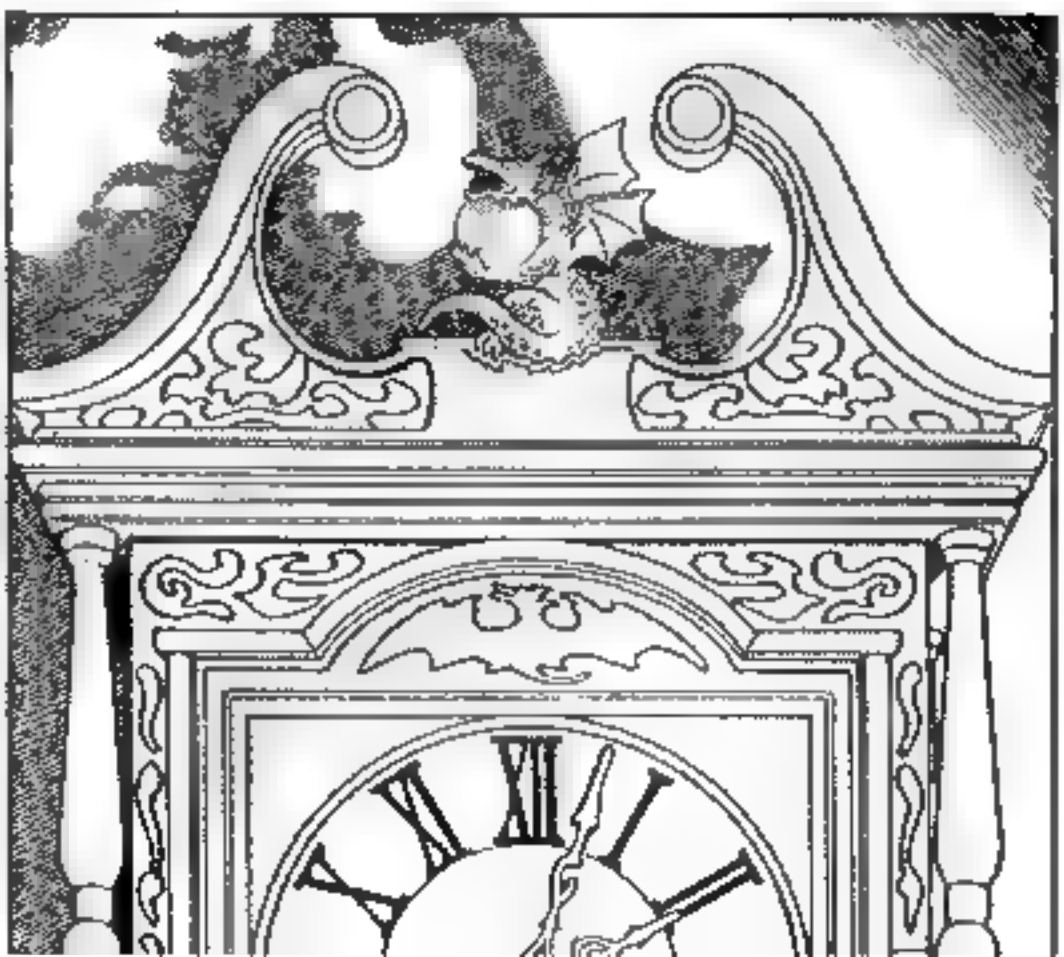
WH-
WHAT IS THIS HOUSE...?!

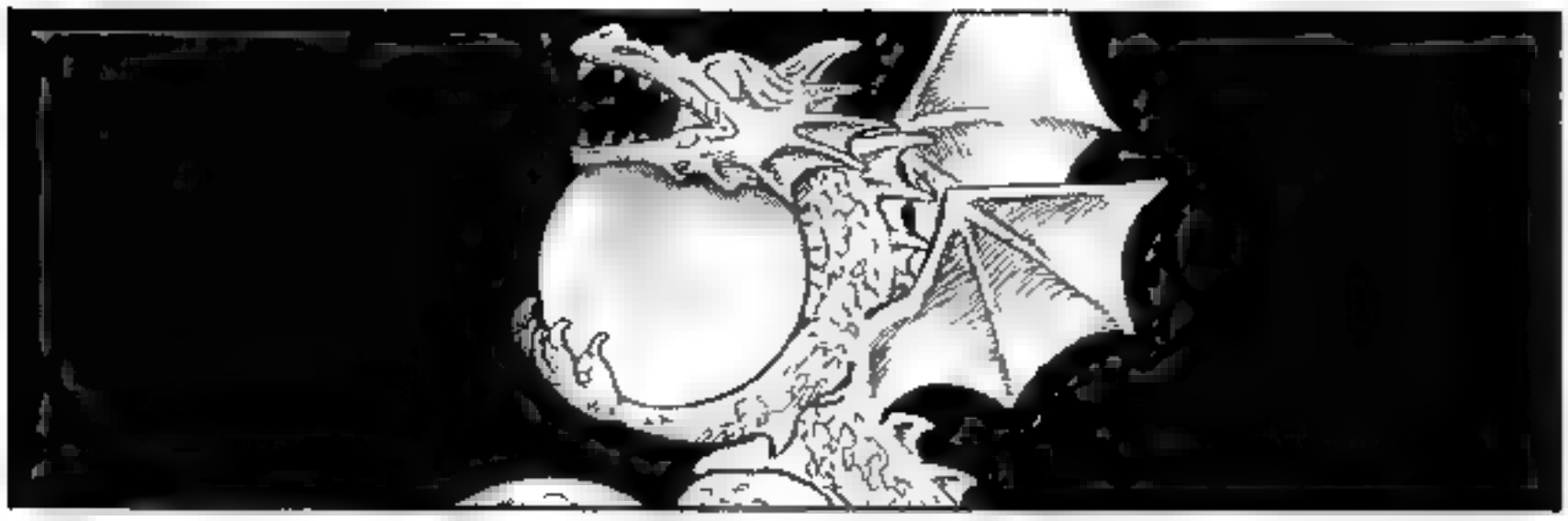


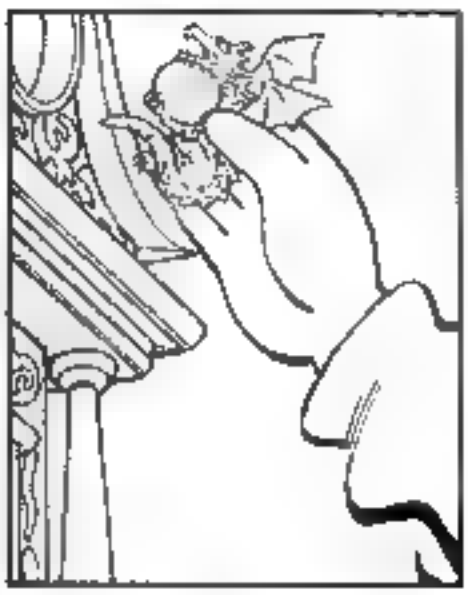


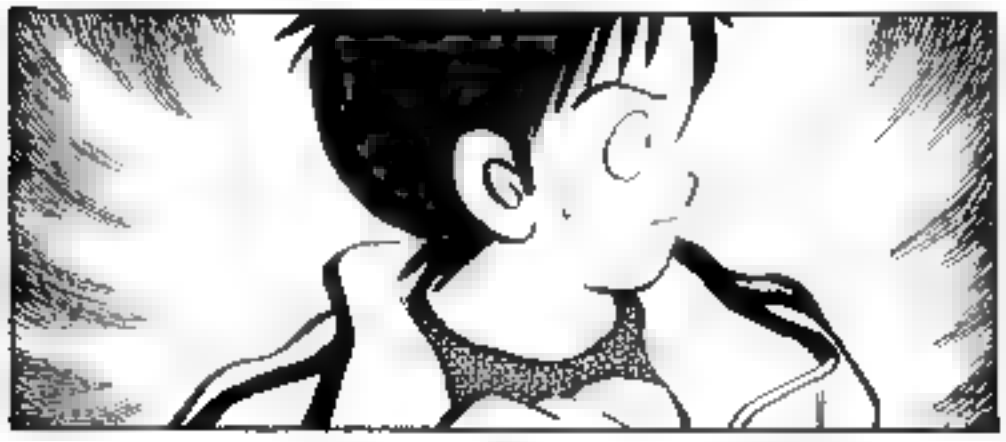
CLACK

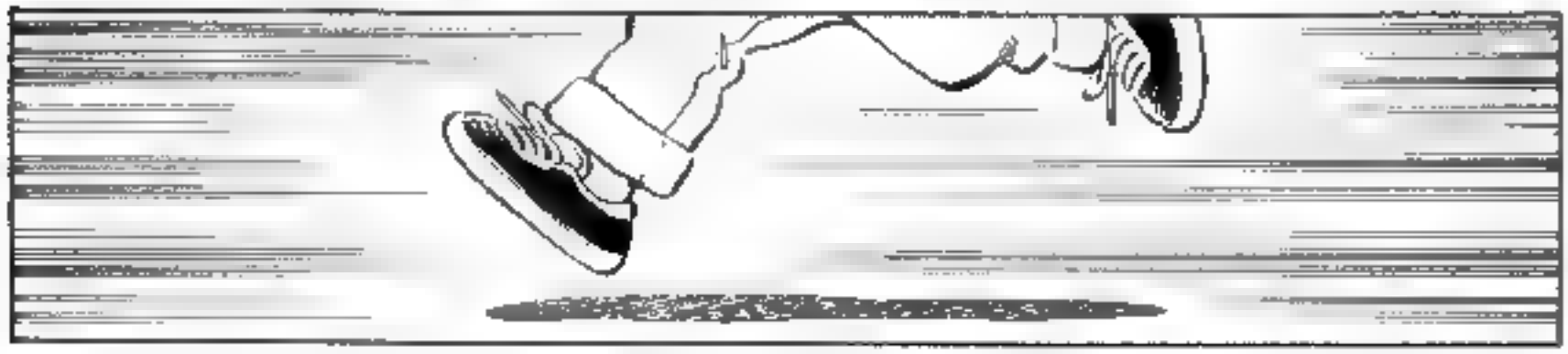


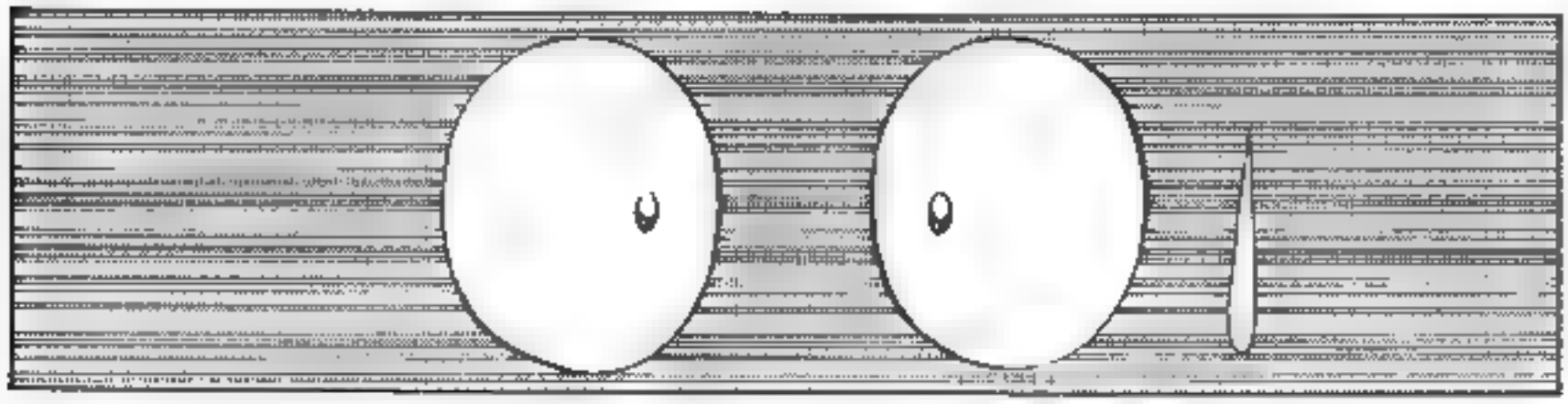

XII

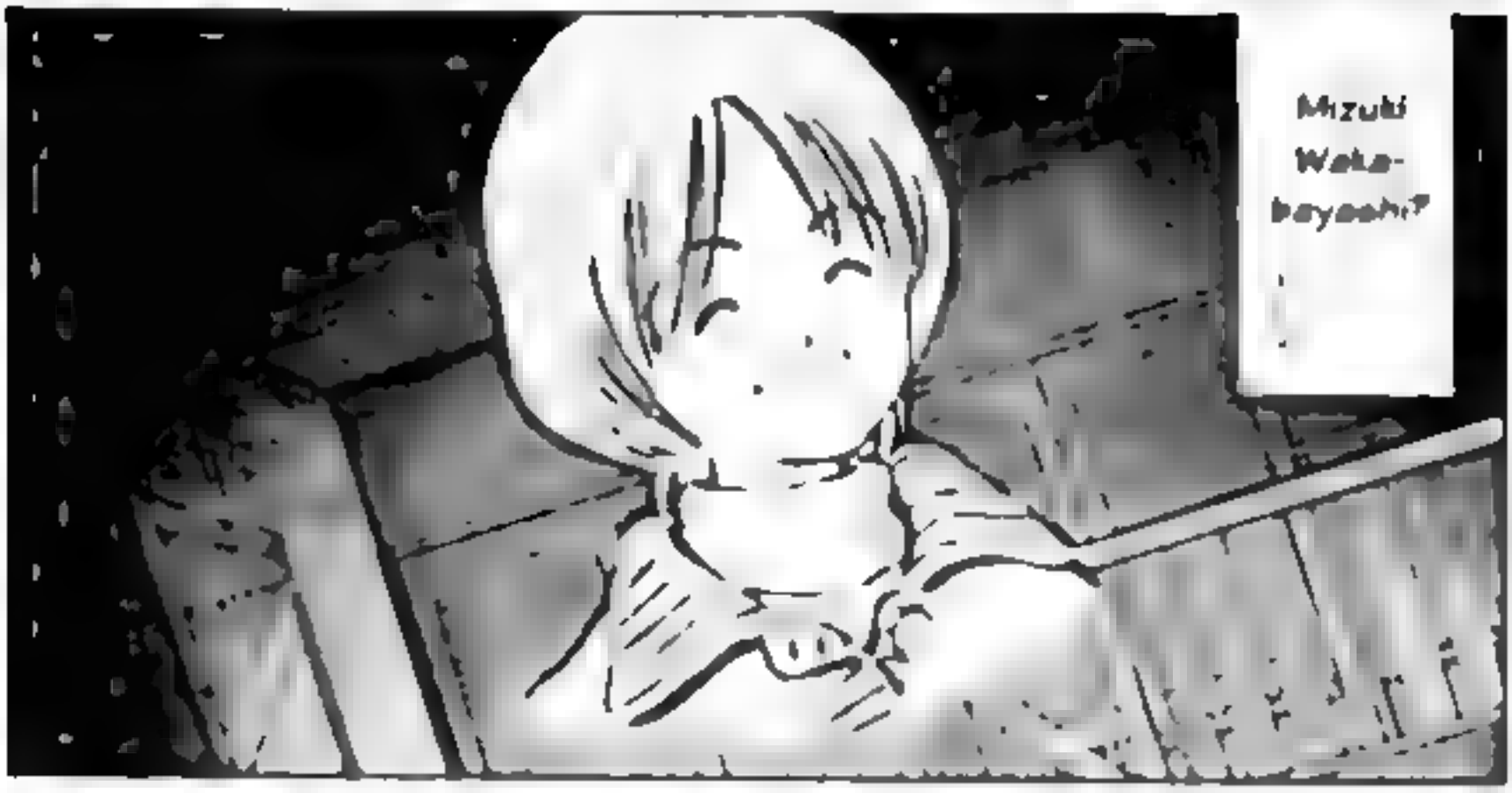


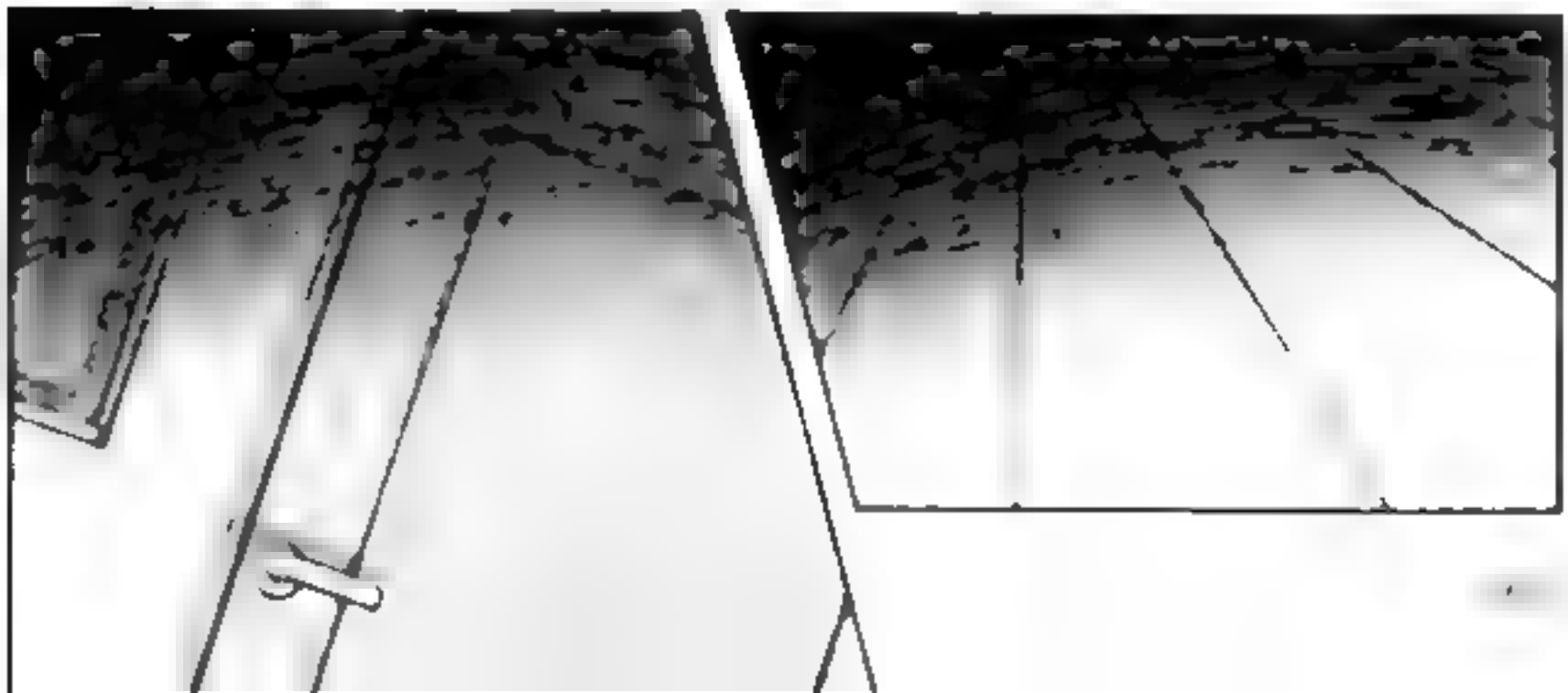


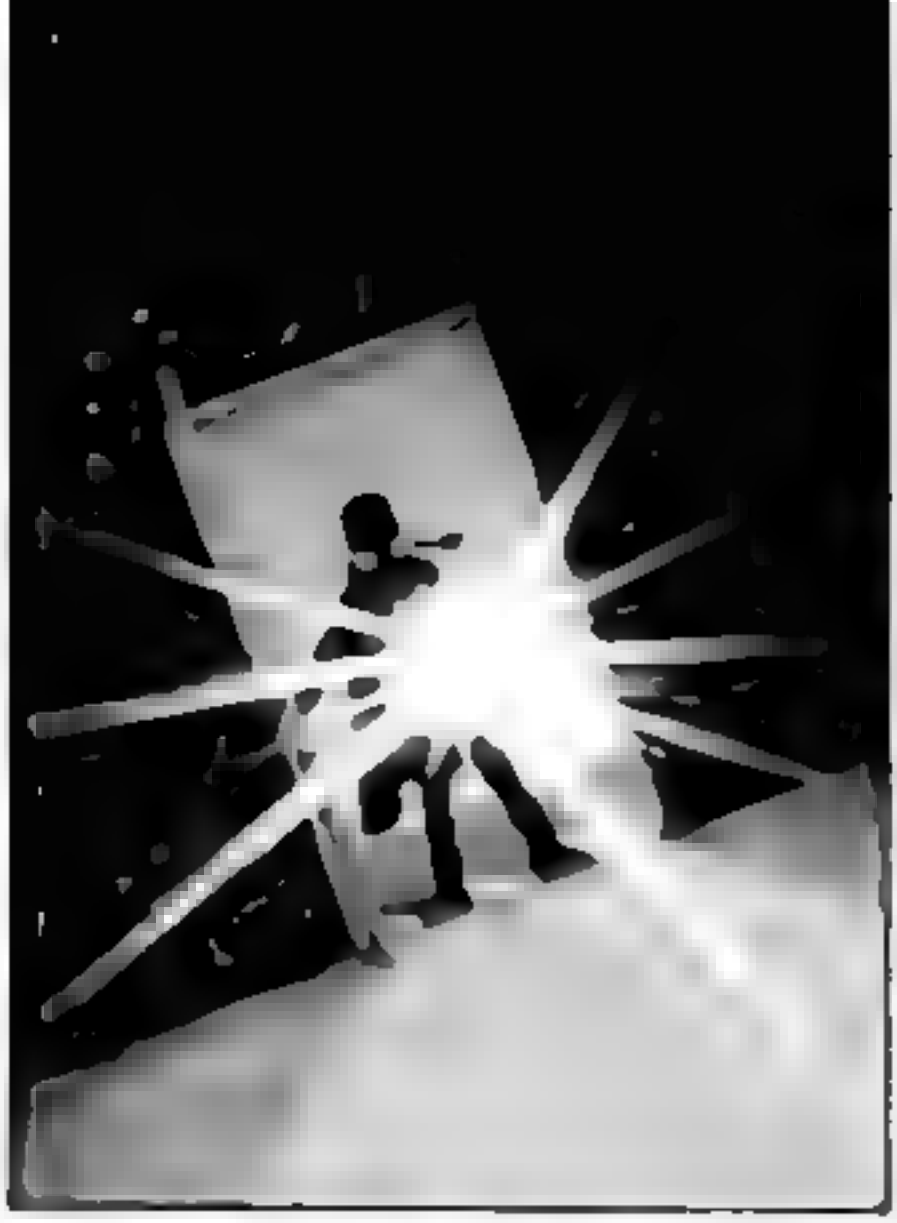


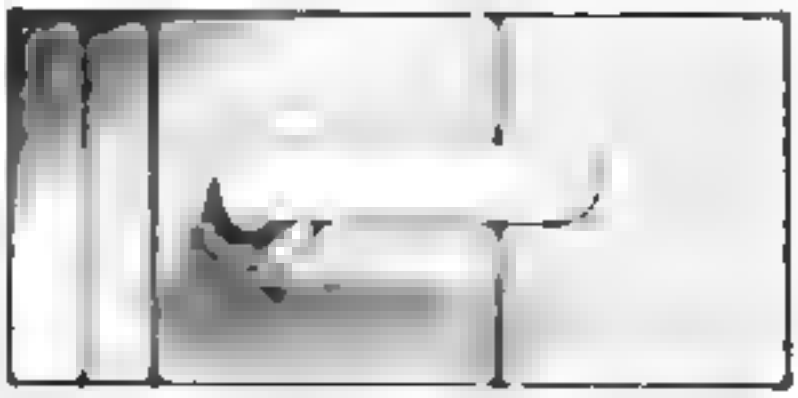


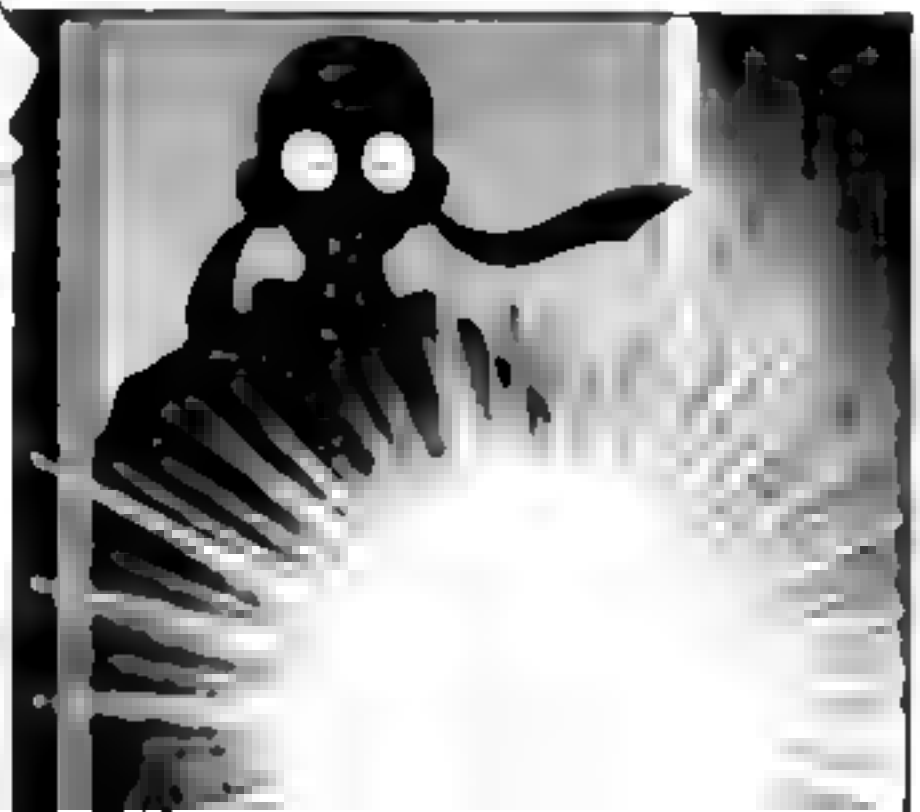


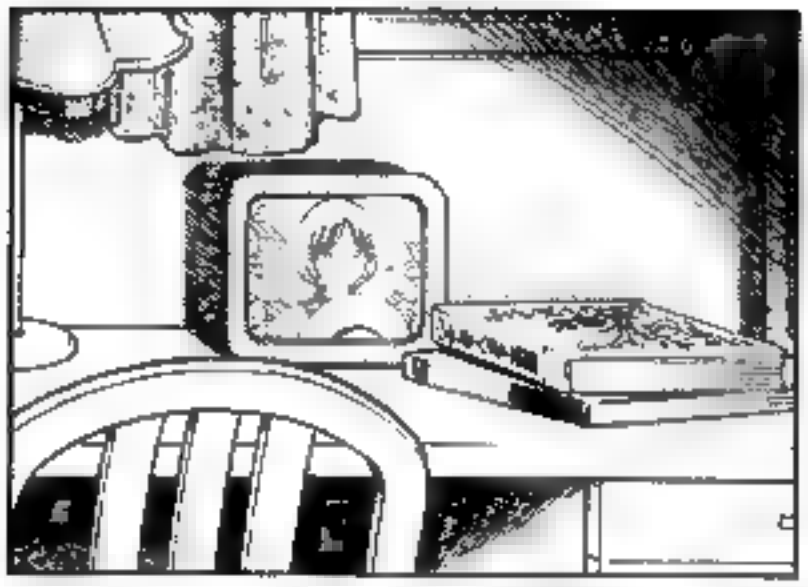

Mizuki Waka-bayashi?

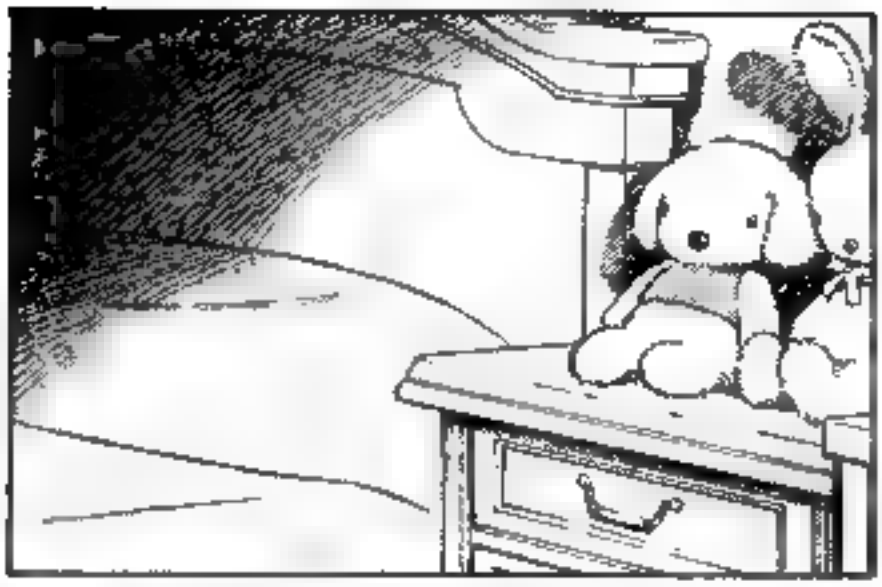




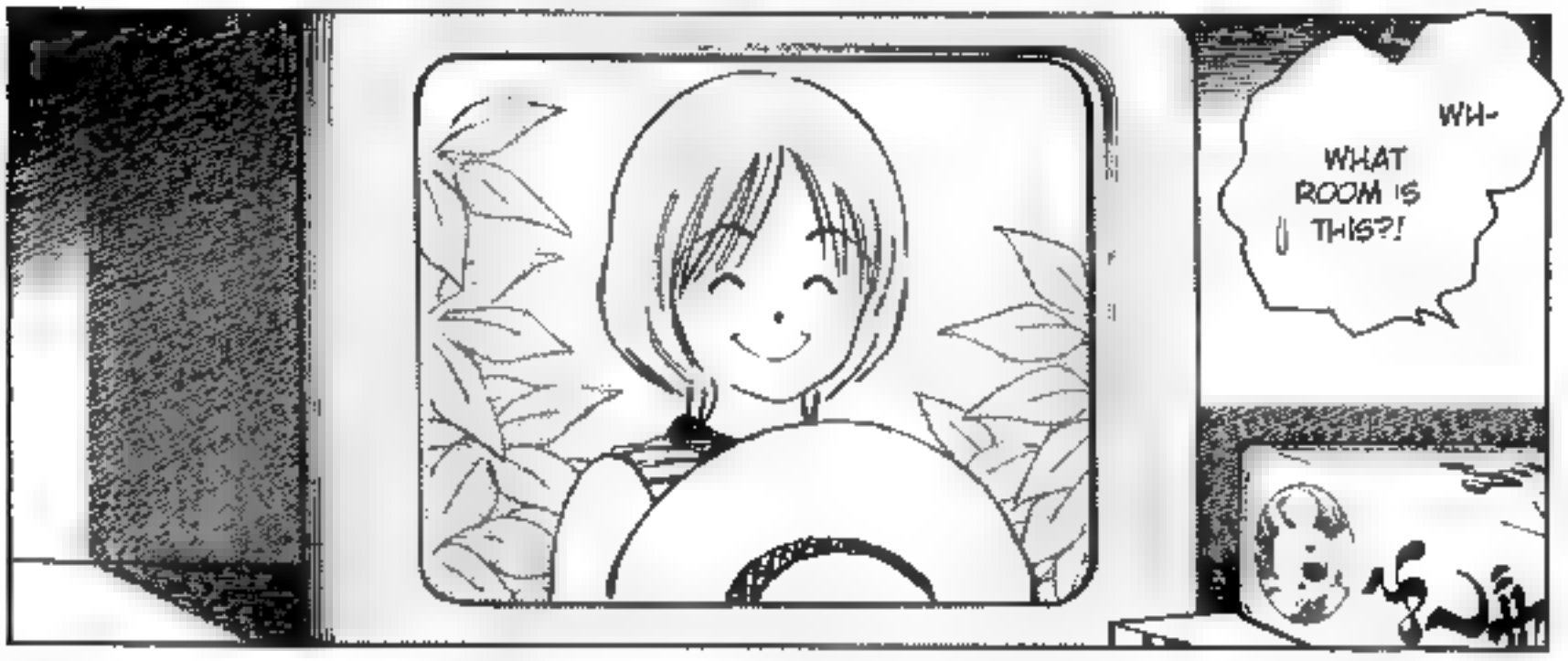


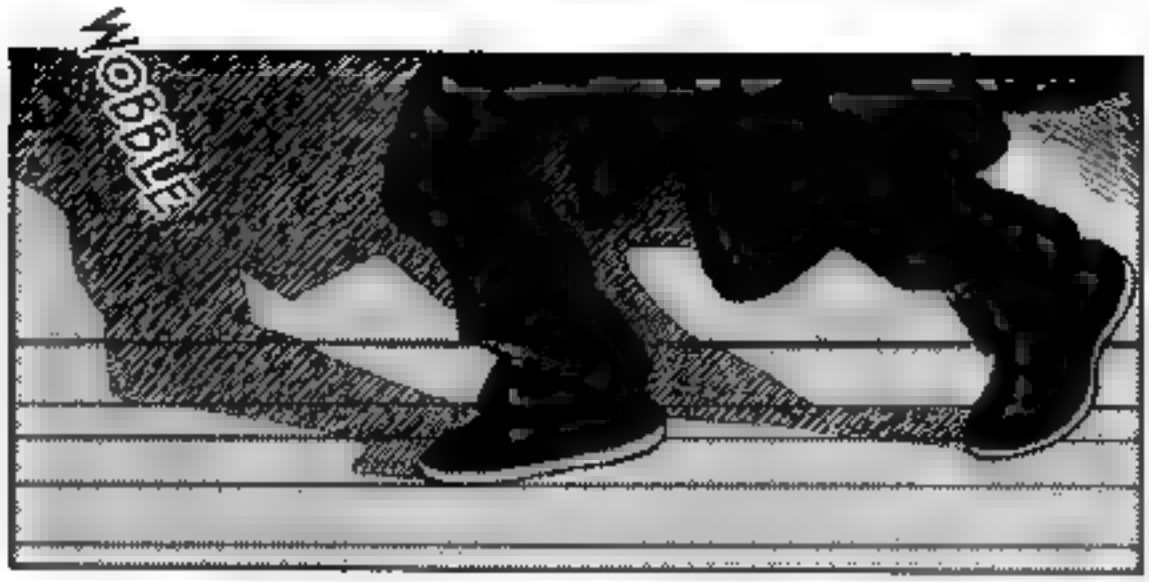


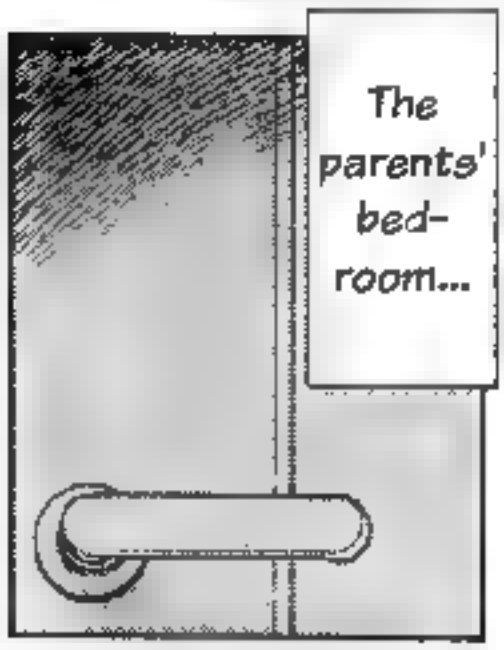


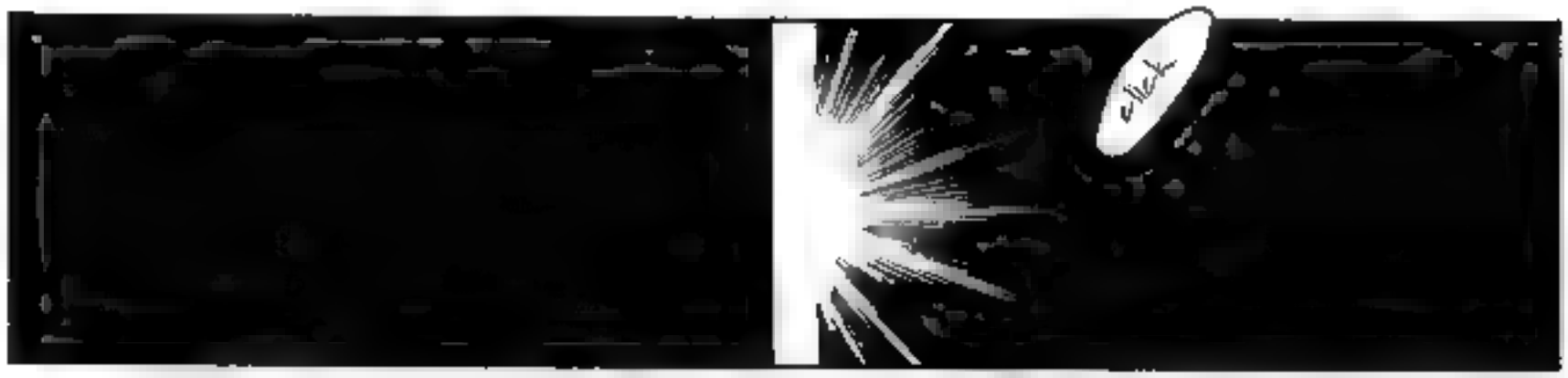


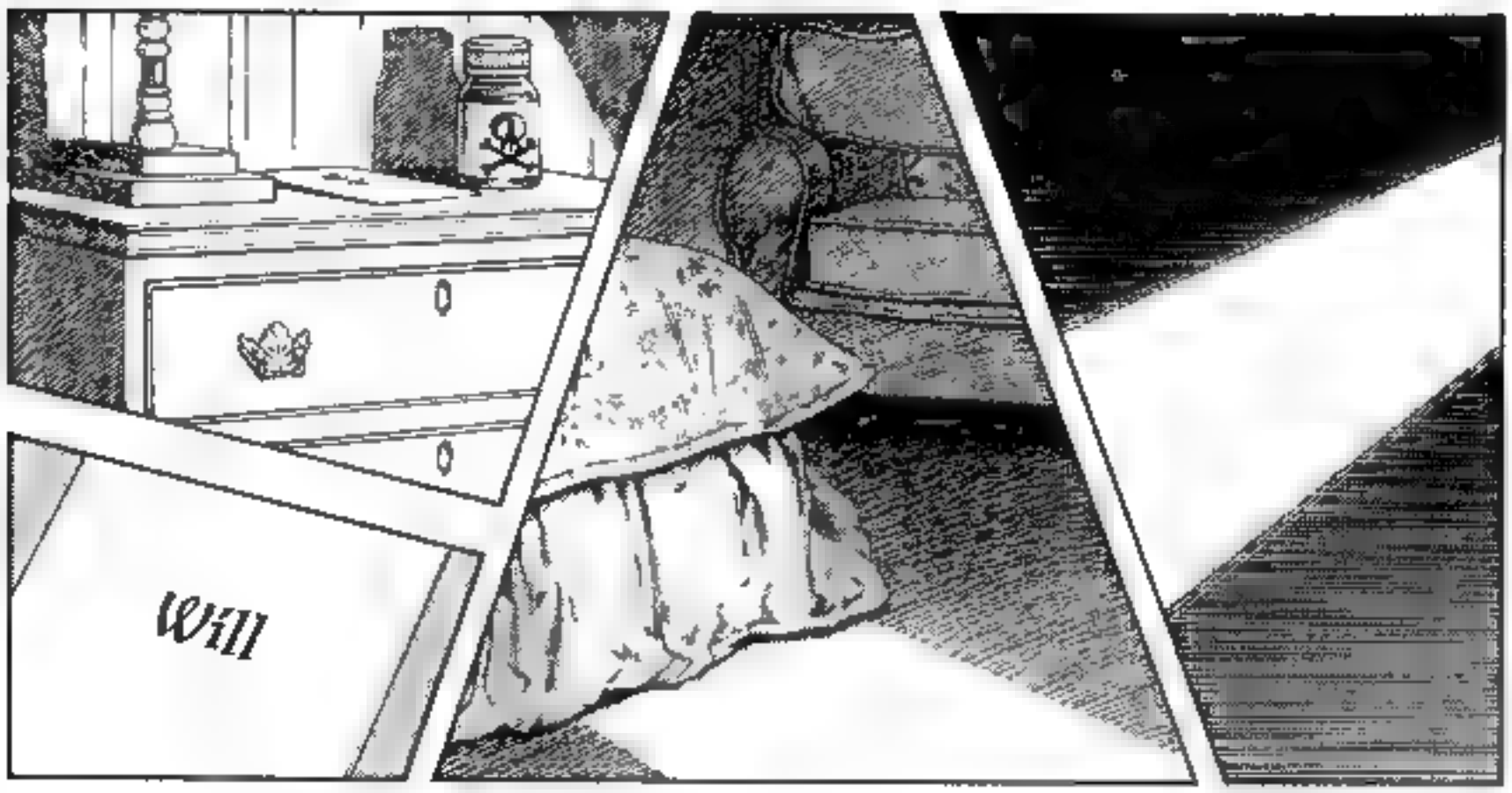
1974 (SHOWA YEAR 49)

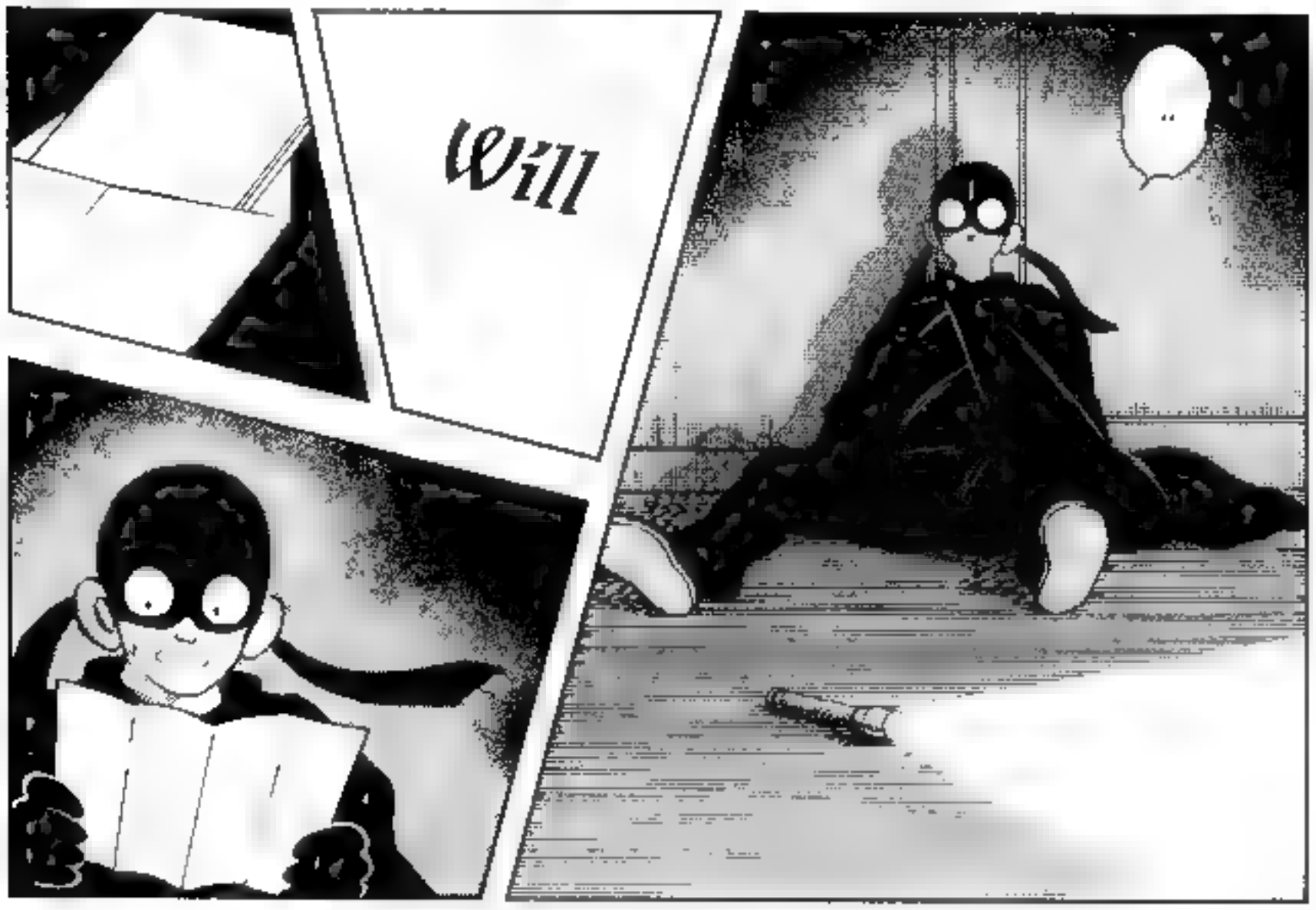


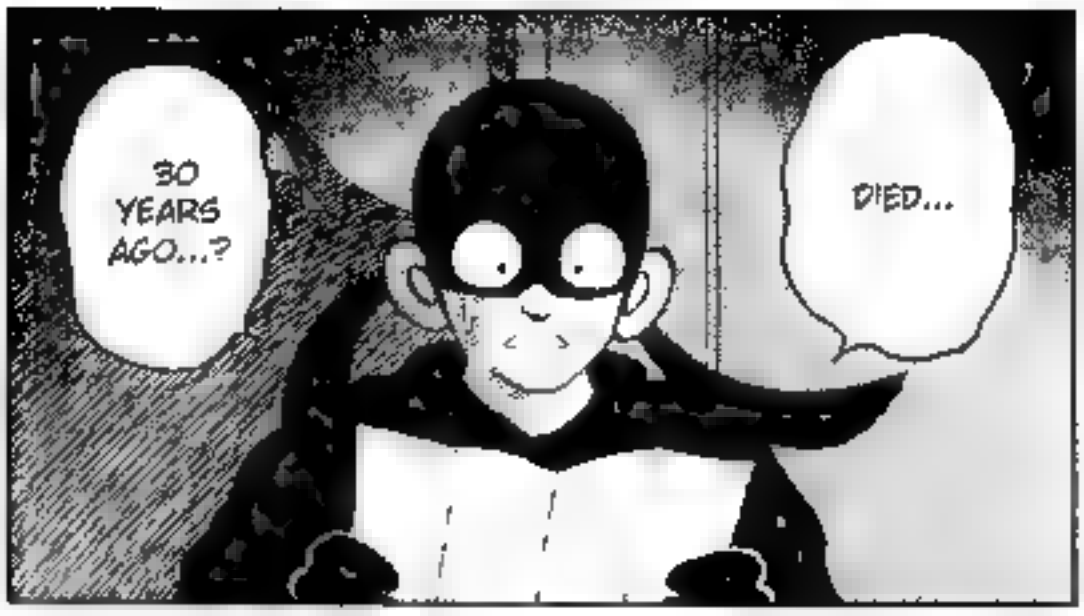

WOBBLE


The parents' bed-room...


click

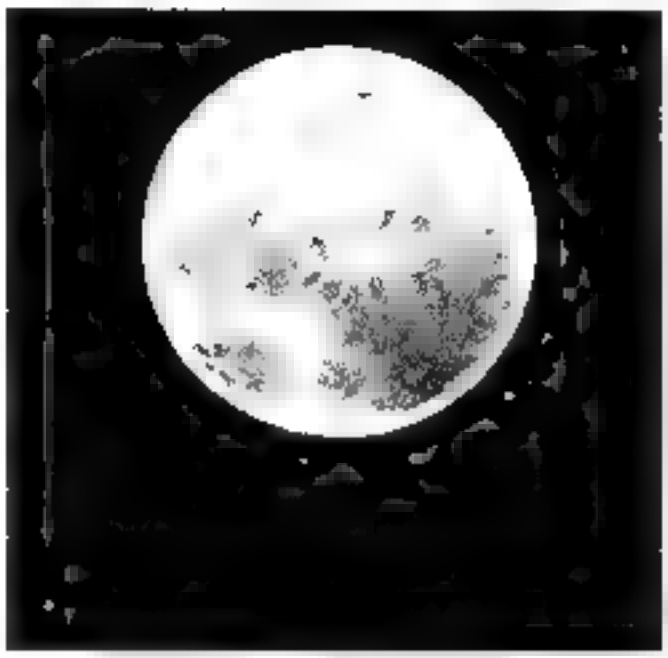

Will


Will
..



Ever since our daughter Mizuki died in a car accident 30 years ago, our family has suffered a streak of ill luck.

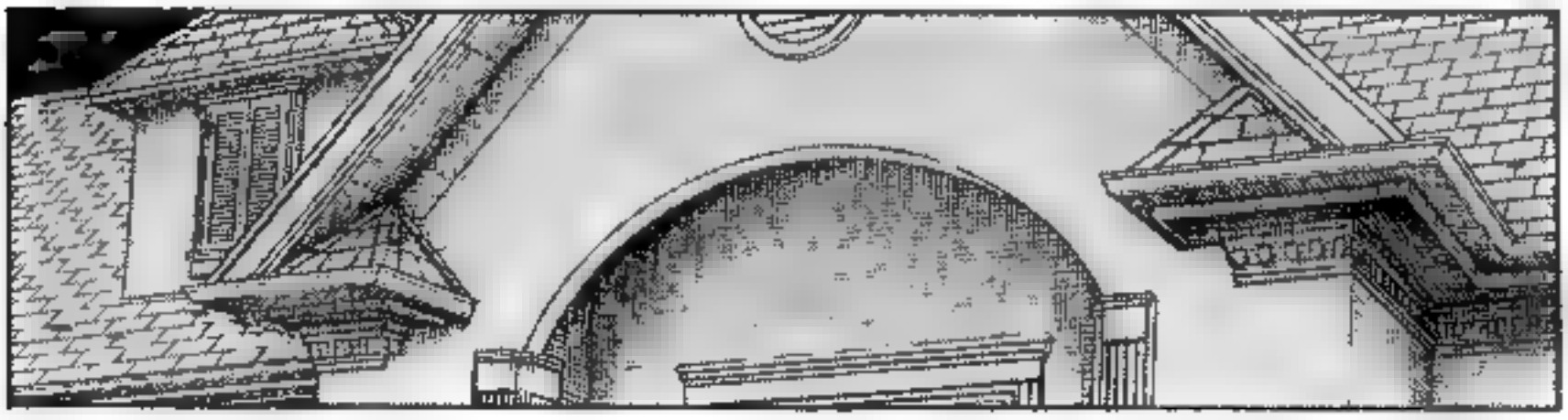
Trusted friends betrayed us,



5 years later, my mother and father died in a plane crash...

and the company my father created in a generation was passed on to uncaring hands.

And the business I inherited sustained massive losses...

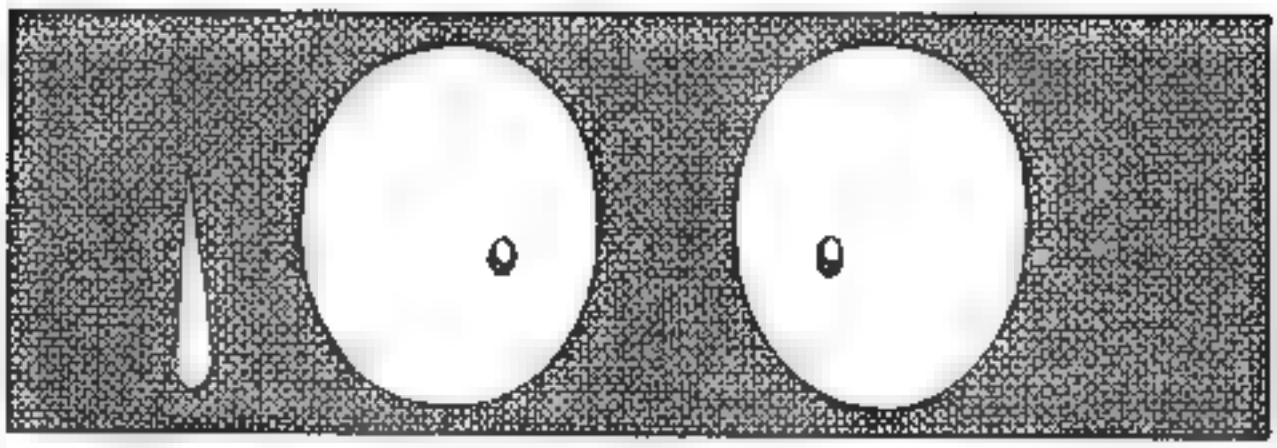


Before we can lose Mizuki's room, which has been kept as it was for 30 years,

Since my wife fell sick a year ago,

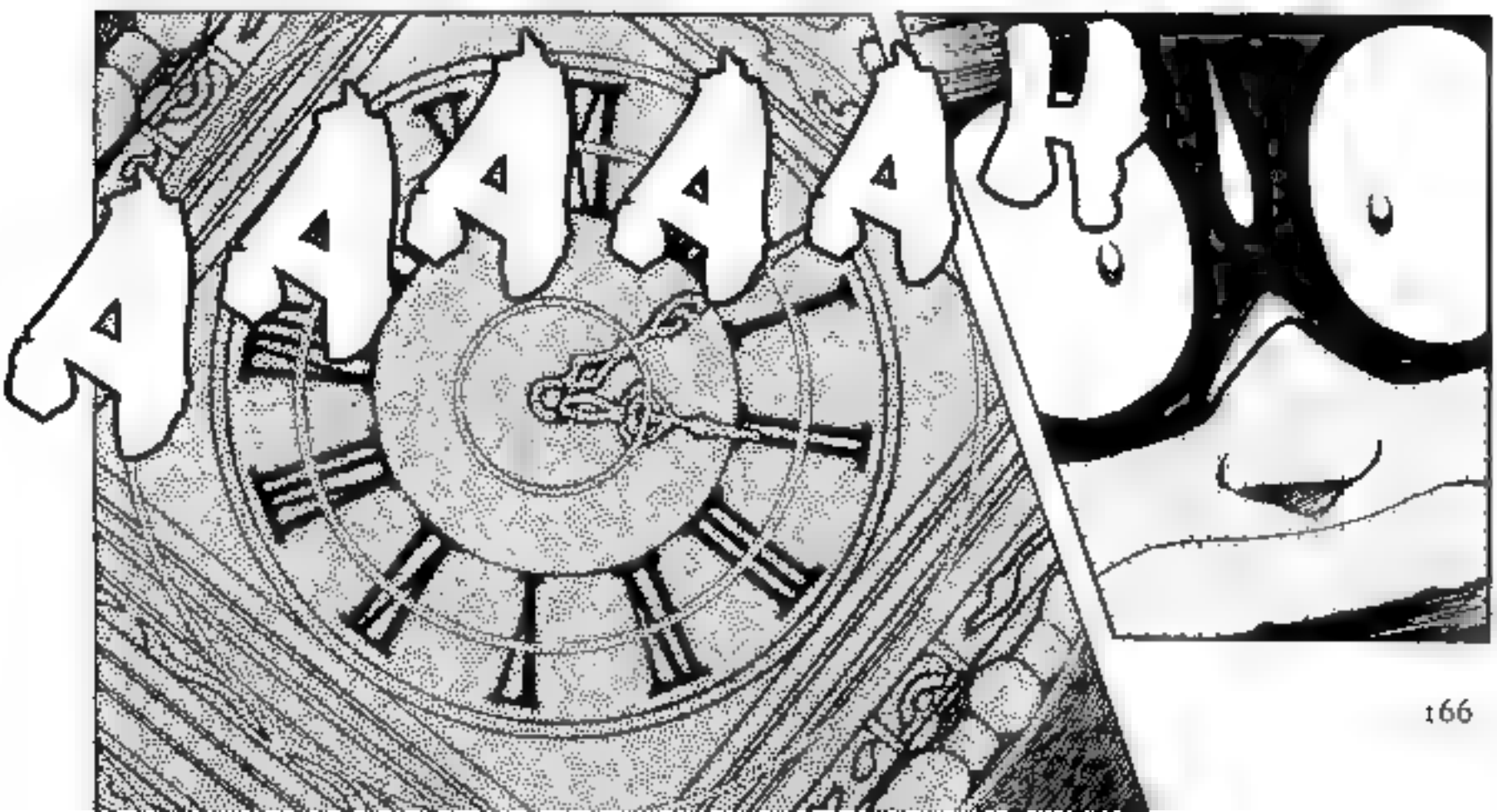
we will leave to visit her directly, in Heaven.

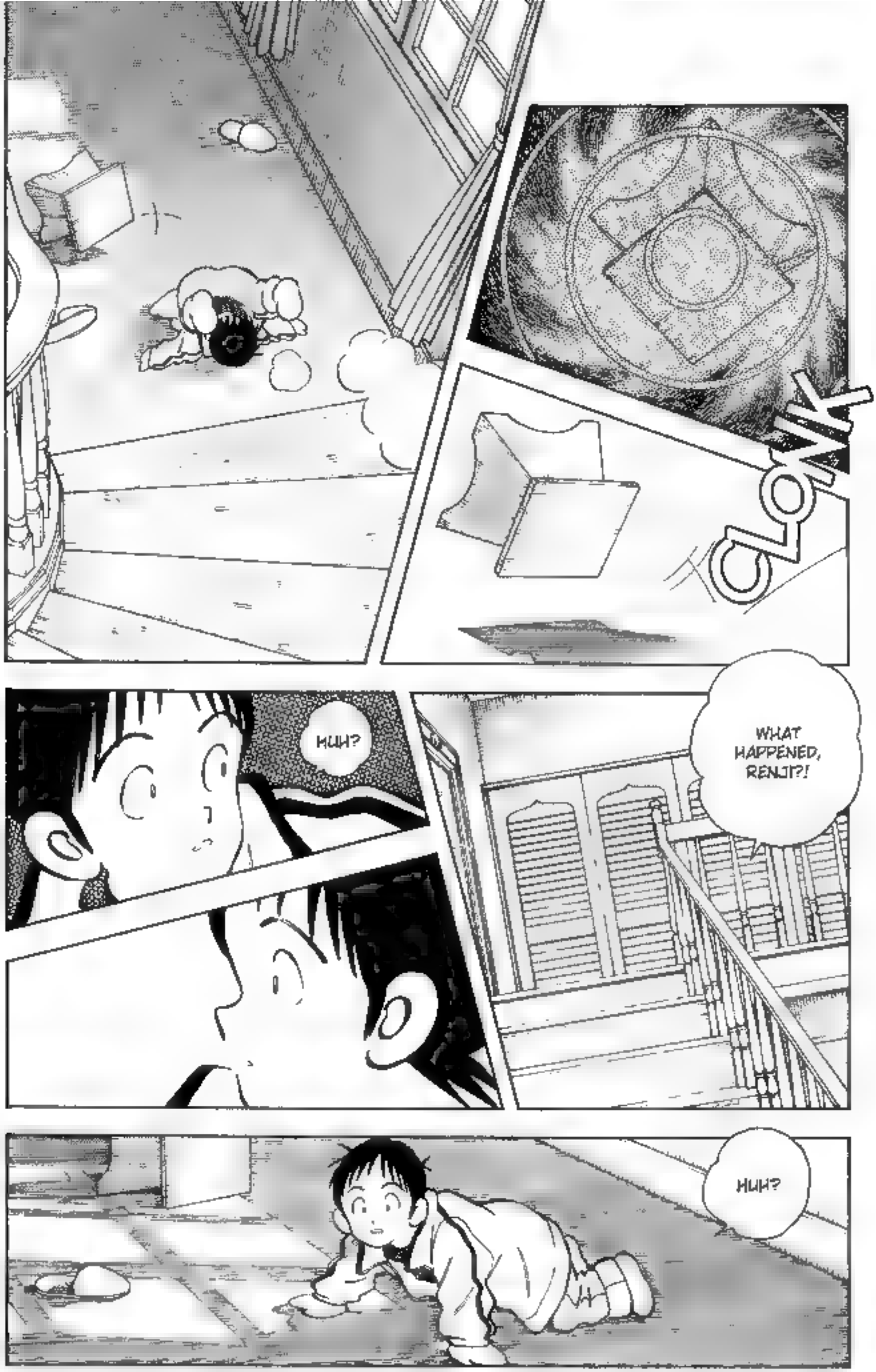
our home has been on the verge of impound.



Goodbye.

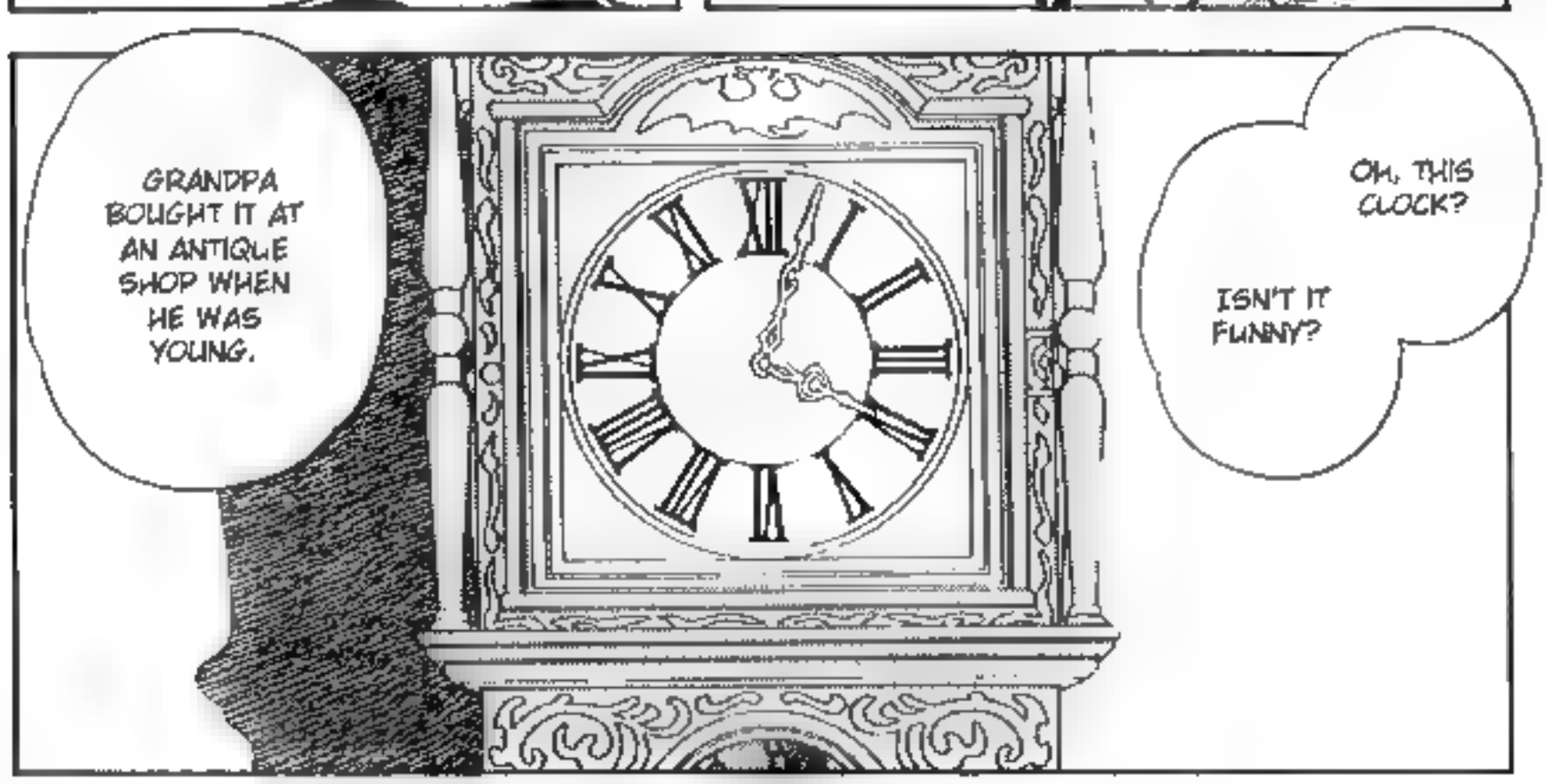
Nobuo & Fusako Wakabayashi

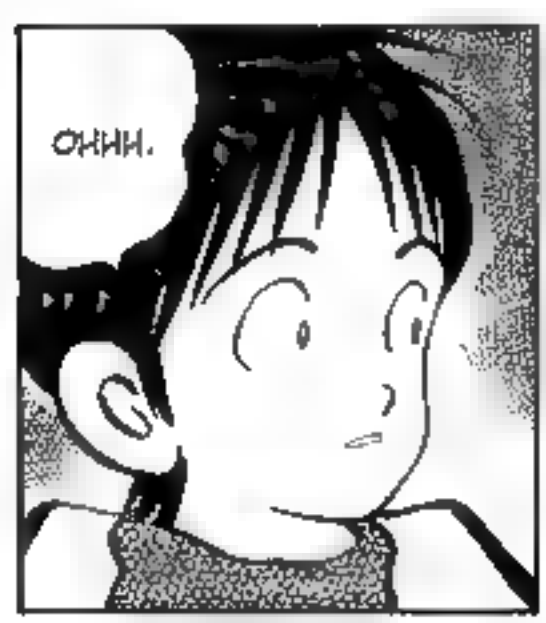


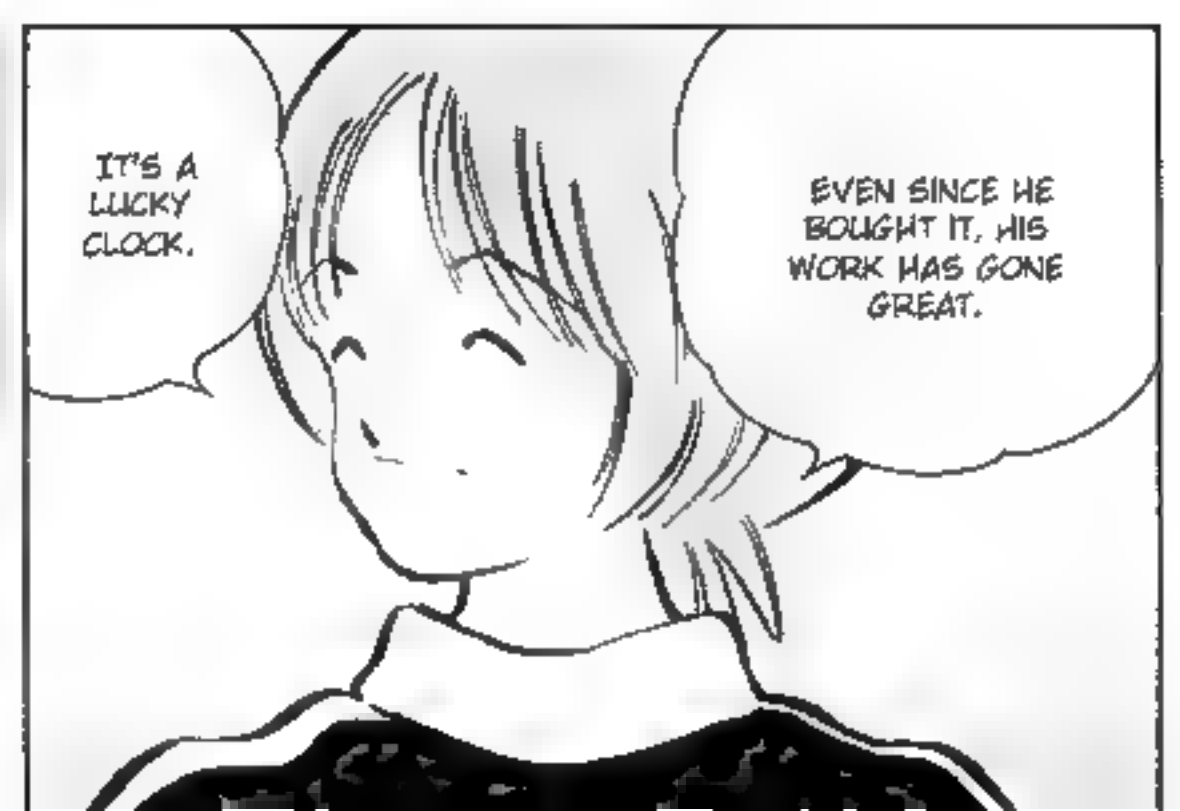

CLONK
HUH?
WHAT HAPPENED, RENJI?!
HUH?

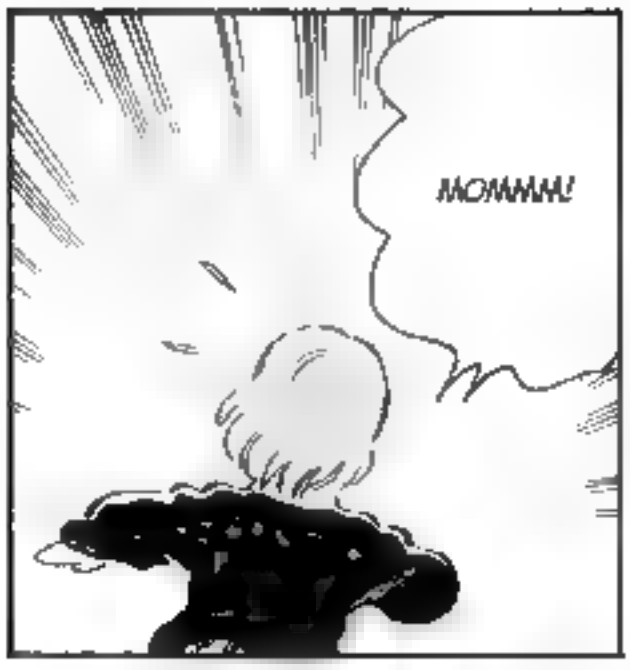
NO.

ARE YOU OKAY?! DID YOU HURT YOURSELF?
I UH, SLIPPED AND FELL DOWN THE STAIRS.
OH,

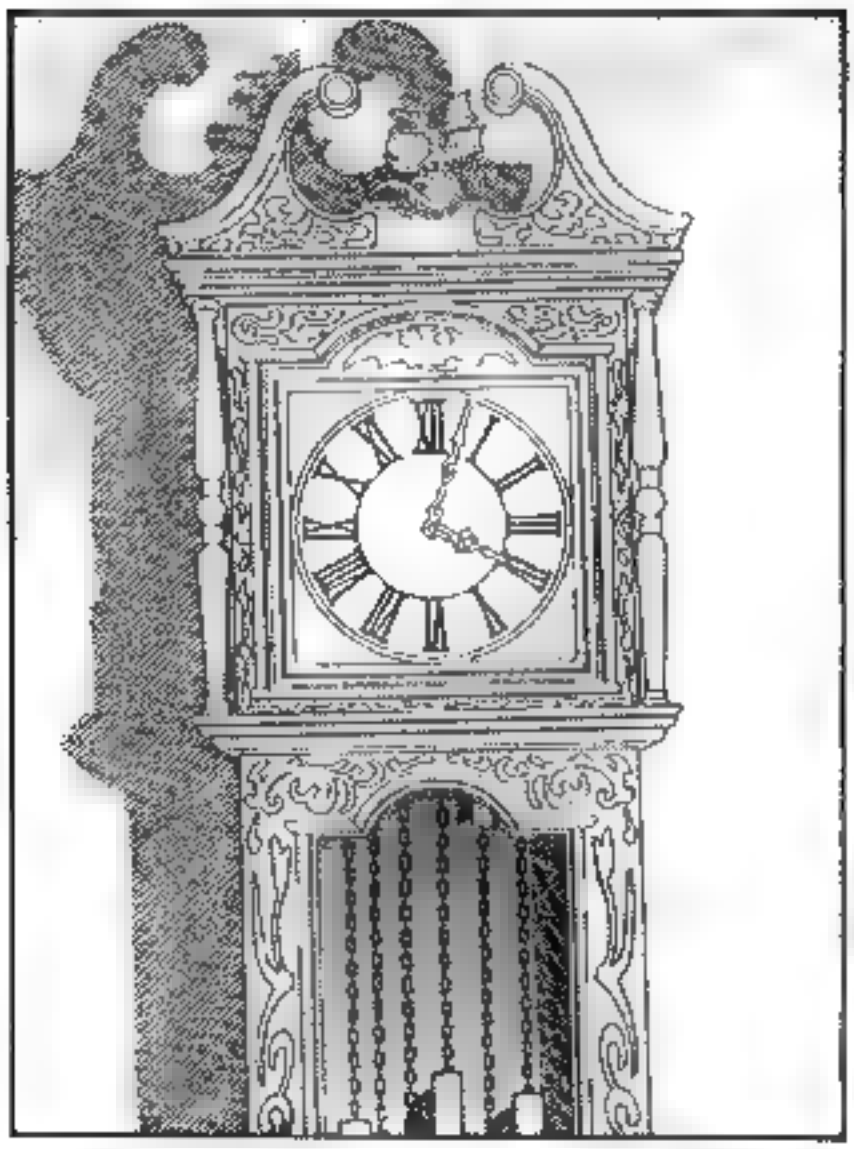

GRANDPA BOUGHT IT AT AN ANTIQUE SHOP WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.
OH, THIS CLOCK?
ISN'T IT FUNNY?

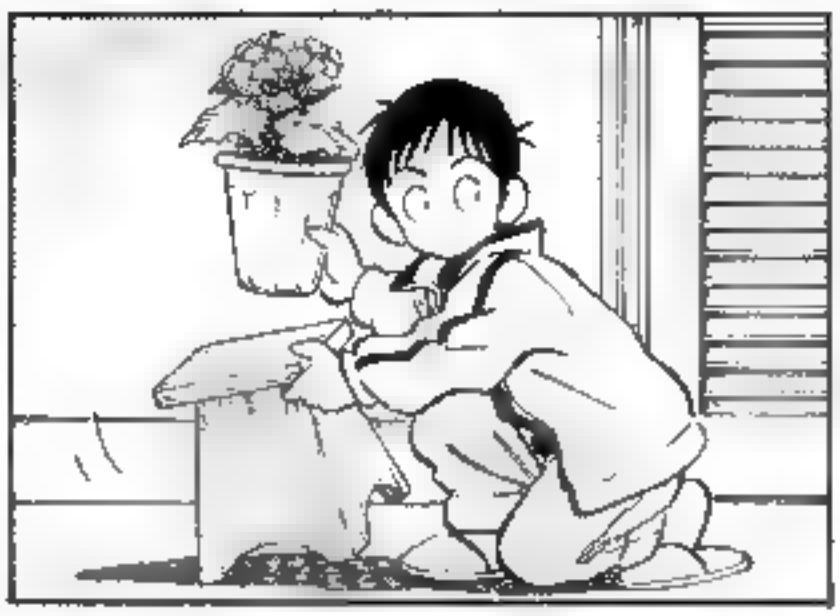

OHHH.

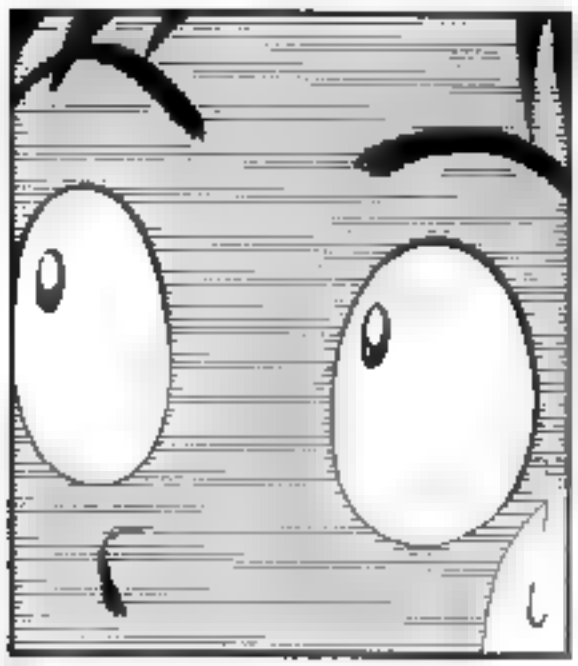

IT'S A LUCKY CLOCK.
EVEN SINCE HE BOUGHT IT, HIS WORK HAS GONE GREAT.

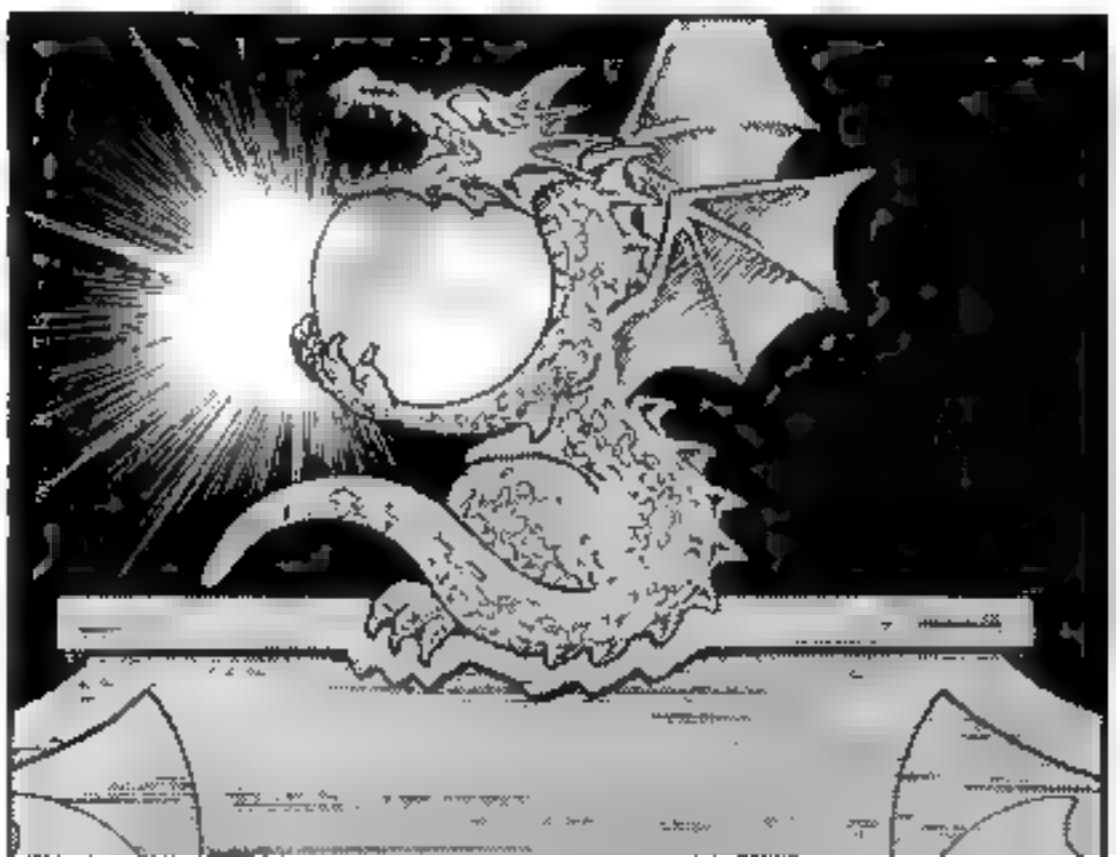

MOMMM!

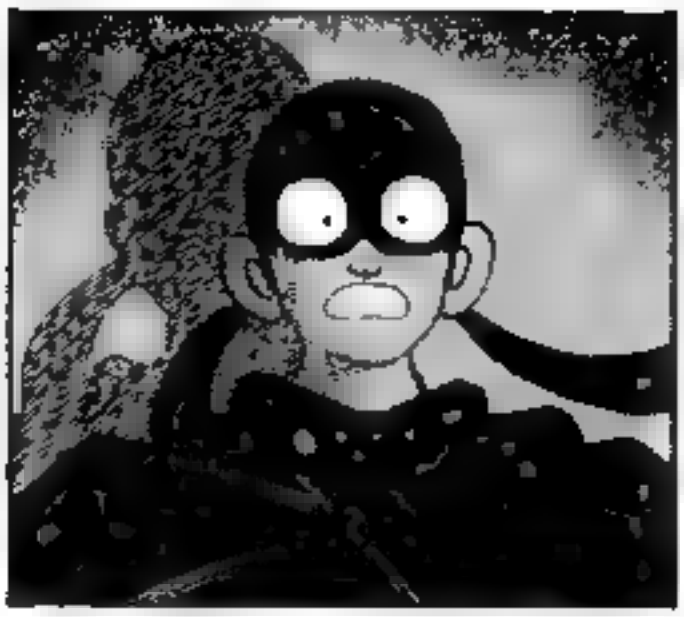
IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS.
OH, YOU'RE BLEEDING!







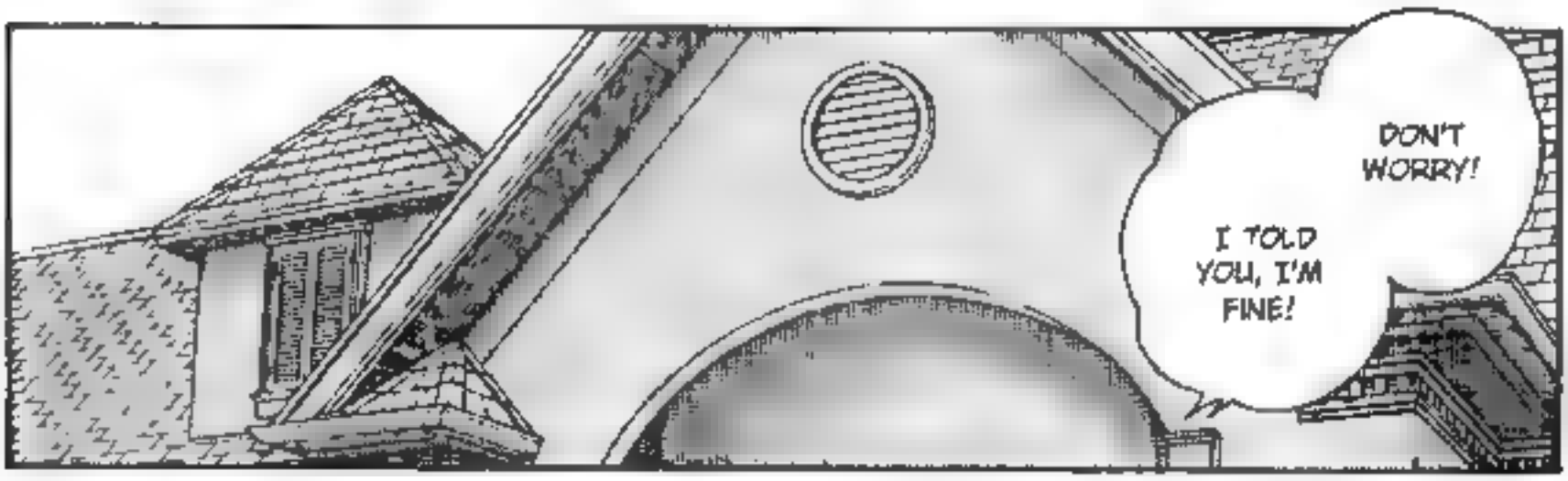




I grew more curious with every glance.

And every time I came over to play.

I desired it even more...



honk honnk

WHAT'S WRONG?

HOP IN.

DAD.

I'VE GOT SOME FREE TIME. LET'S GO ON A DRIVE.

GET IN, RENJI!

LET'S GO ON THE DRIVE THEN!

I WANNA WATCH A TV SHOW!

I HAVE SCHOOL OFF TOMORROW!

PLEASE?!

YOU CAN TAKE A BATH ANY TIME.

HEY, LET'S GO BACK HOME FIRST!

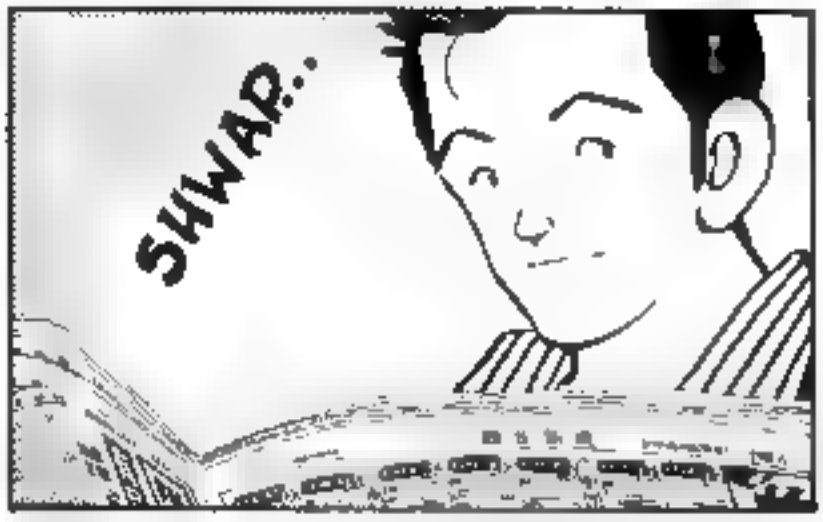
I WANT TO TAKE A BATH!

...ALL RIGHT.

Sign Hayakawa Ironworking

WHAAAT?!
REALLY?!
WH-
RIGHT AWAY!
YES, SIR!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
ABSO-LUTELY!

Cover Big Comic Original 30th Anniversary Special Issue



PRACTICALLY A MIRACLE, IN THIS RECESSION.
YES, THANKS TO YOU.

SEEMS LIKE YOUR BUSINESS IS BOOMING, AS EVER.

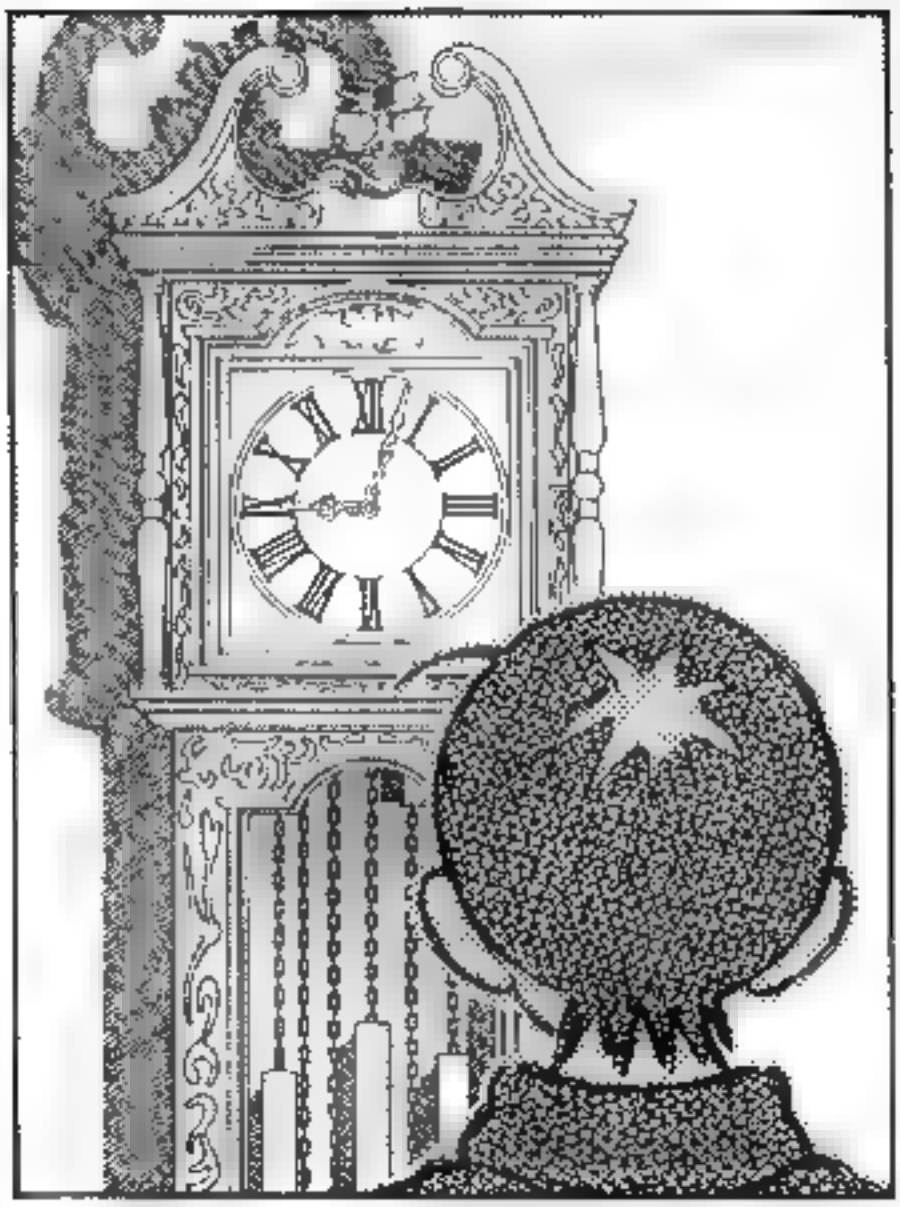
THANKS, DEAR.

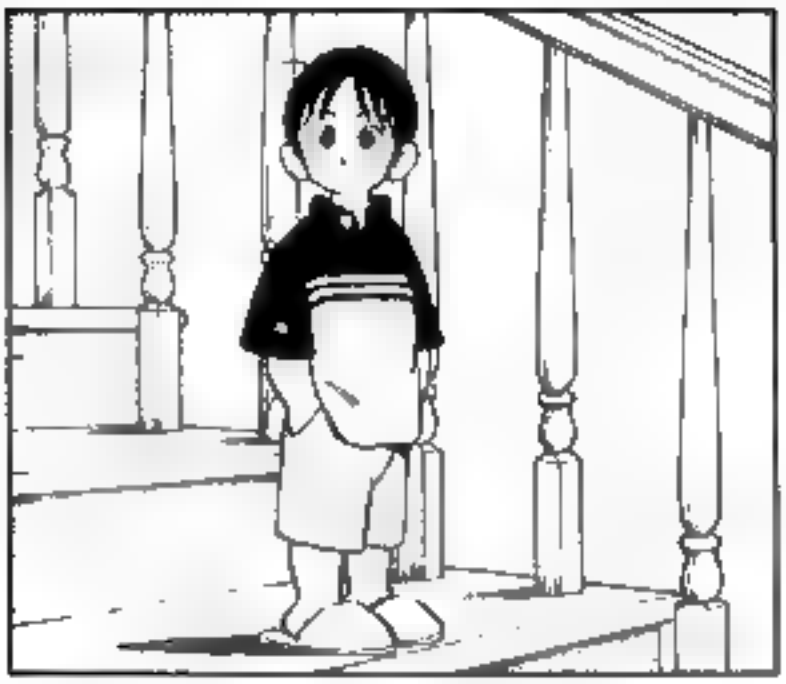
NO, NO, THAT WAS ALL YOUR DOING.

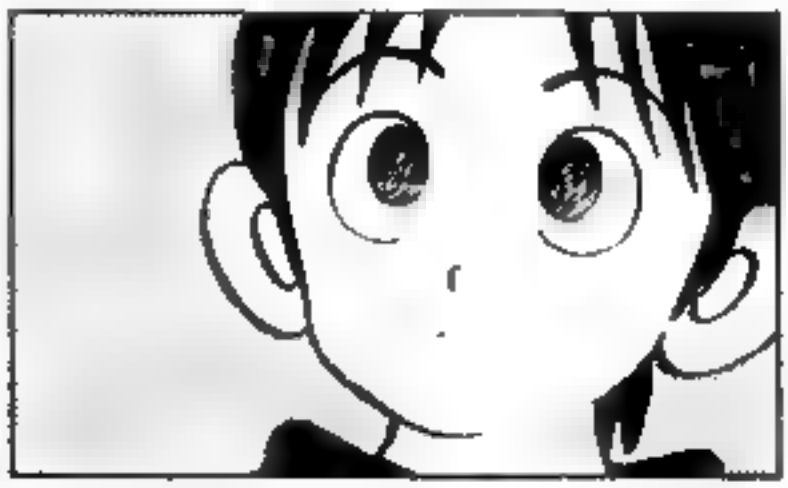
ALL READY.

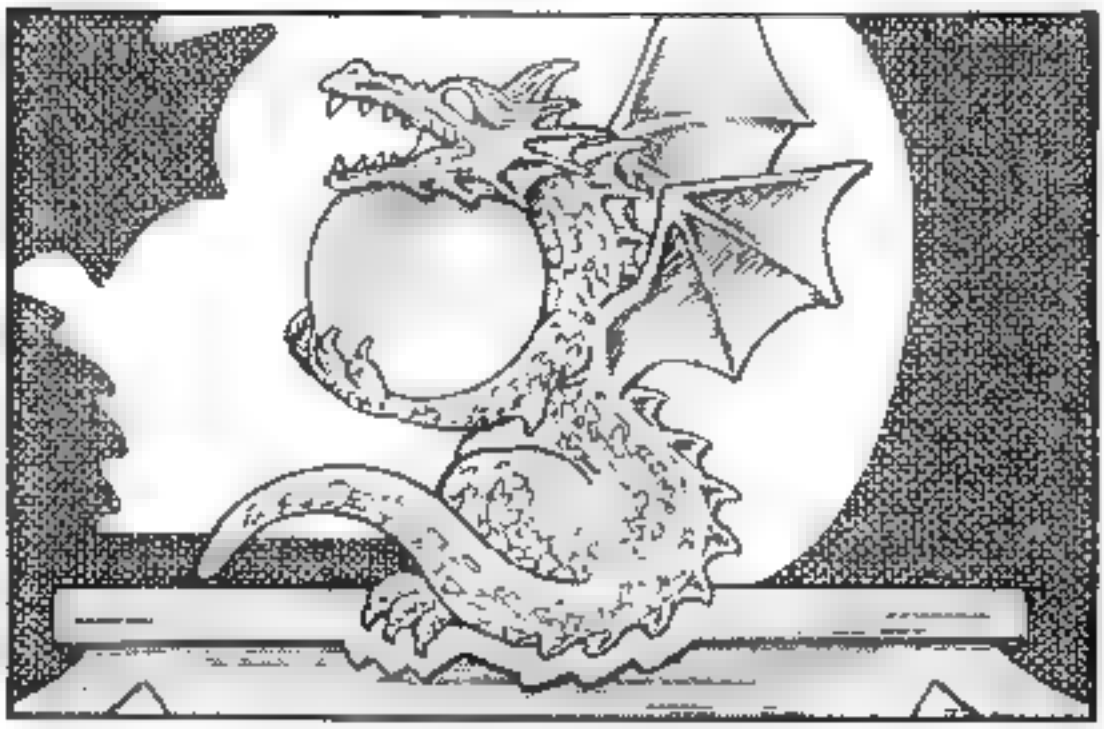
OH, SHE'S PLAYING WITH ONE OF HER FRIENDS.

WHERE'S SAYAKA?



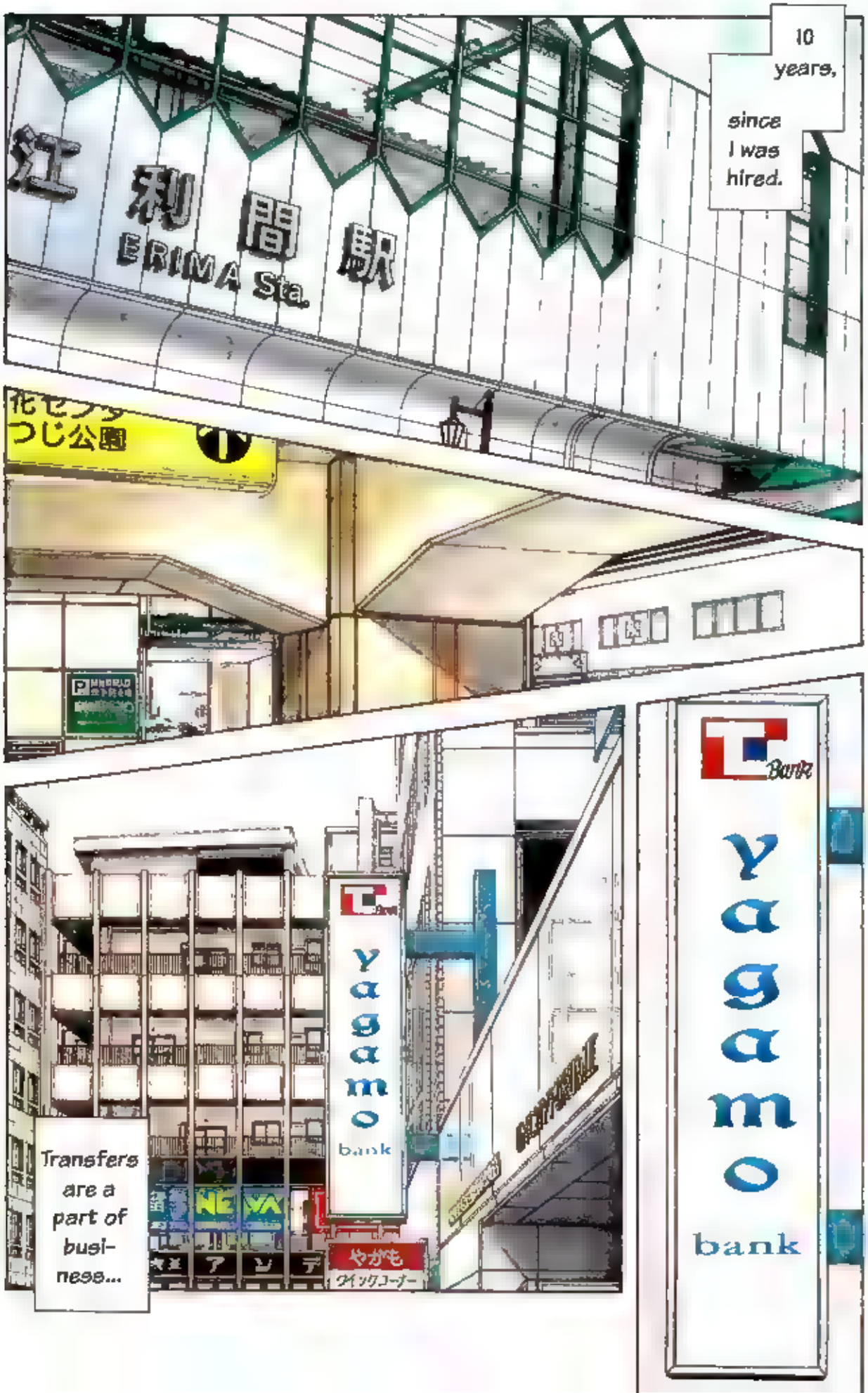


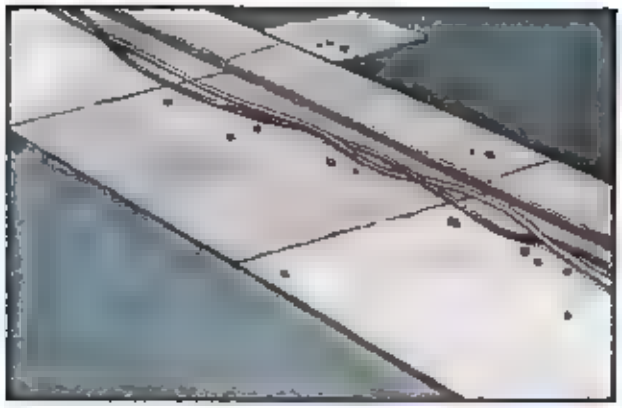


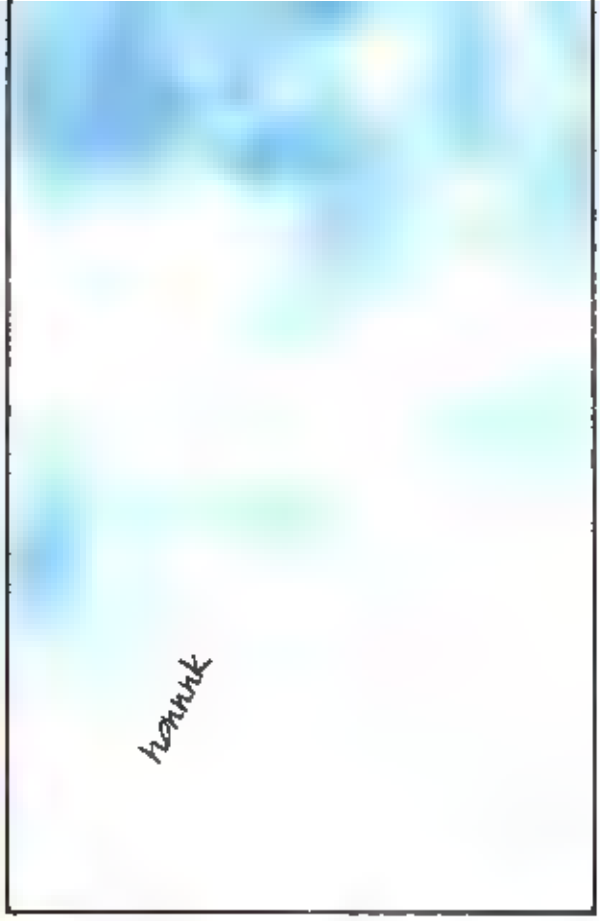


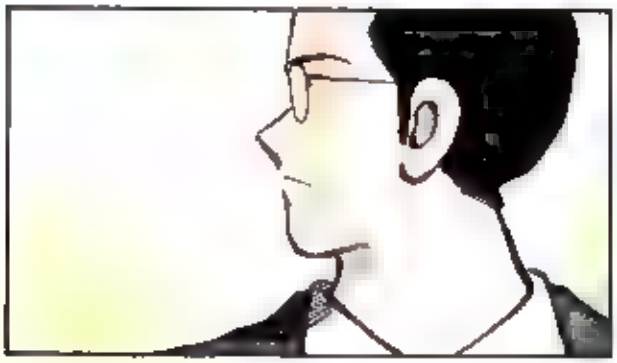
– Chapter 6 End –

CHAPTER
7
SKETCHBOOK

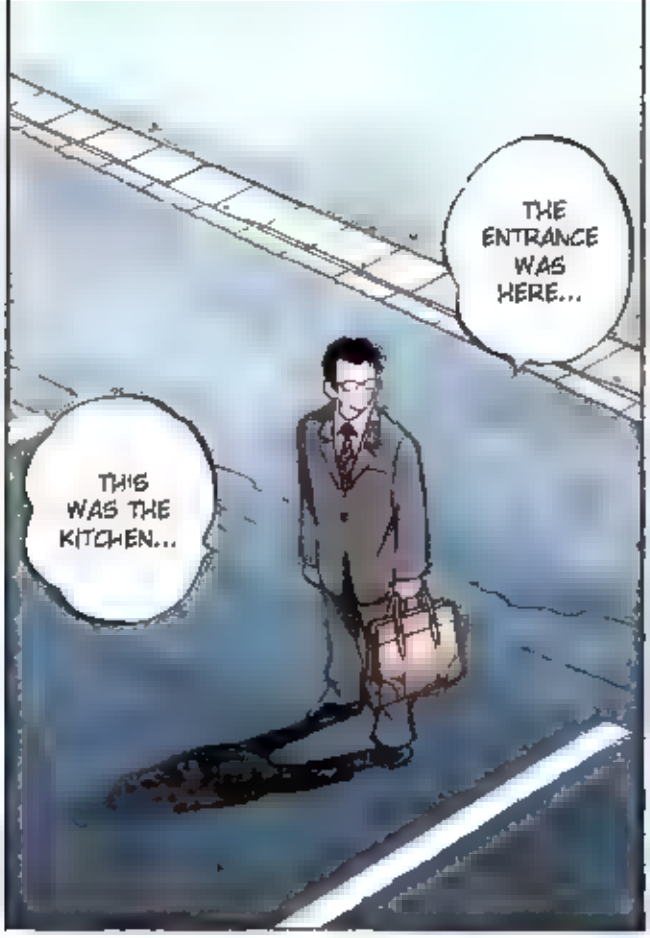

10 years, since I was hired.
江利間駅
ERIMA Sta.
つじ公園
Transfers are a part of busi-ness...
yagamo bank
やがも
クイックコーナー
Bank
yagamo
bank

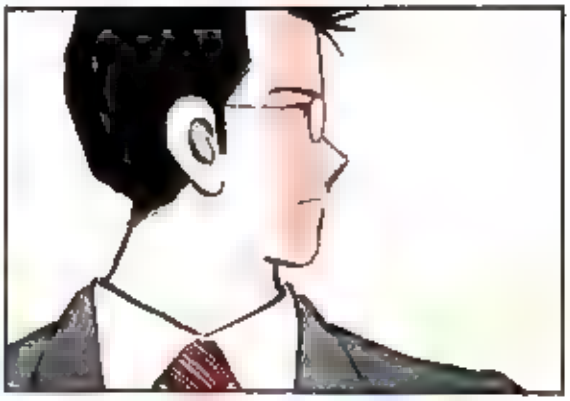






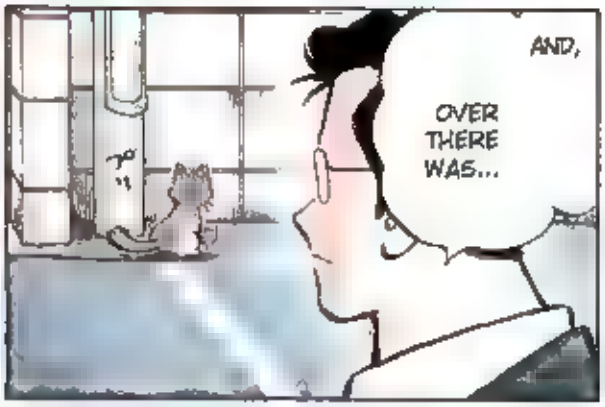
Scanned by Athanor
Translated by Stephen
Edited by Pet

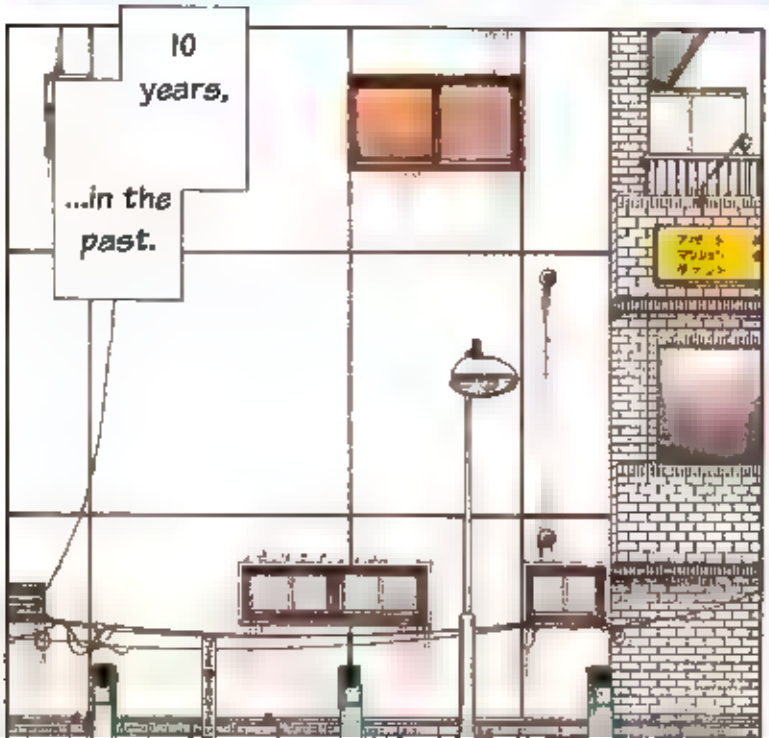

THE ENTRANCE WAS HERE...
THIS WAS THE KITCHEN...



THIS WAS IT.

meow

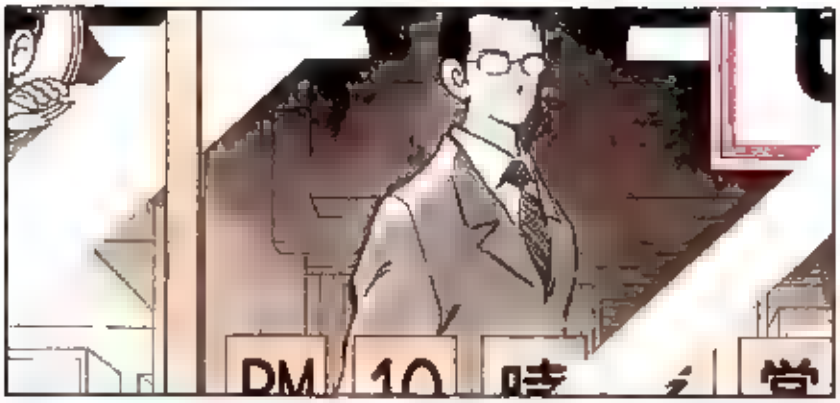

AND,
OVER THERE WAS...


10 years,
...in the past.

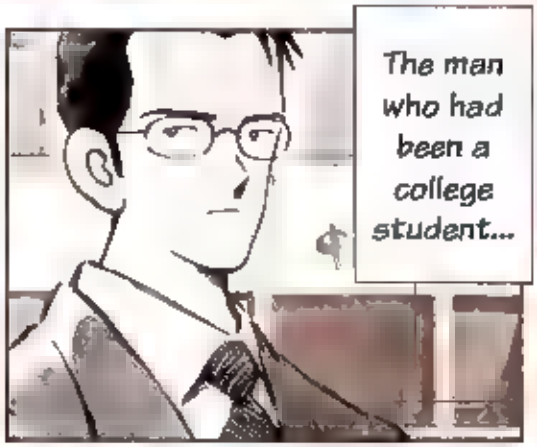
THIS WAS IT.
YEP.

The town I had spent my college years in...

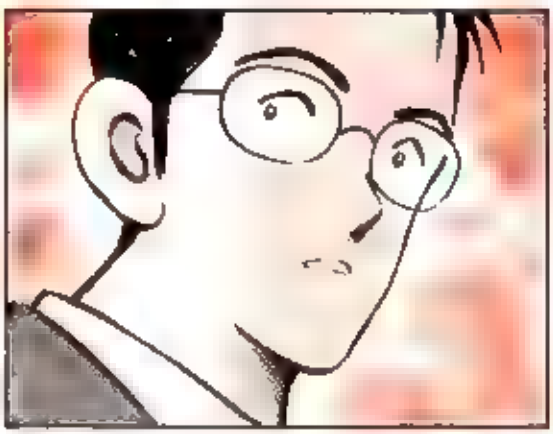
Had entirely changed its complexion.



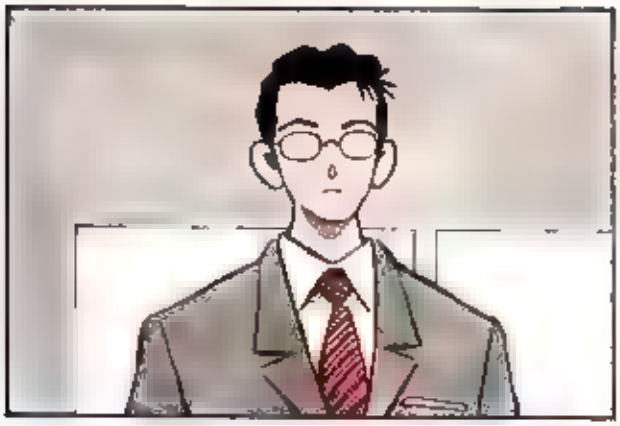
As well as...

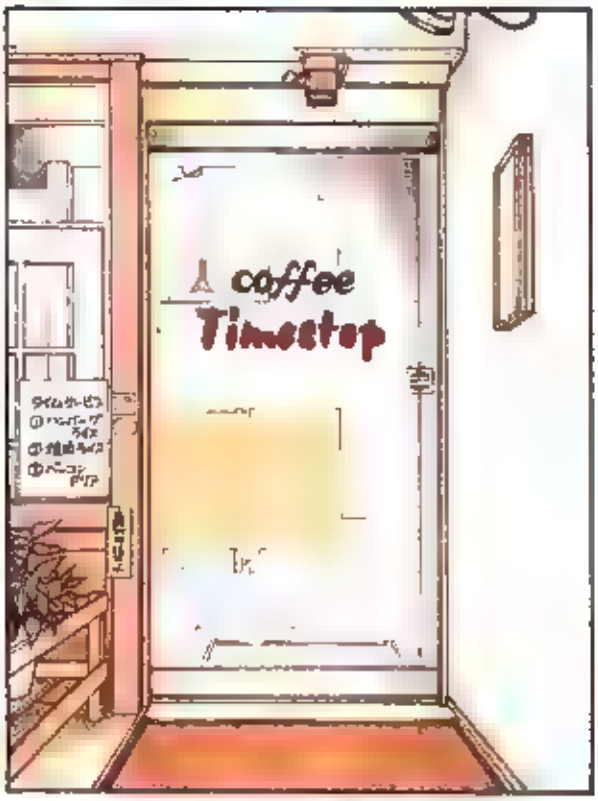

The man who had been a college student...

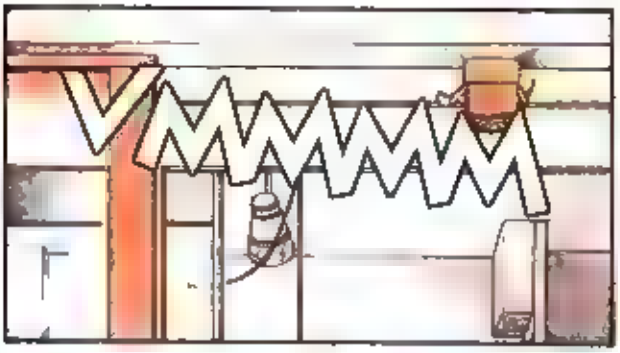
coffee
Timestop



coffee
Timestop




coffee
Timestop



...

The tables and chairs...

The cafe's title was not mis-leading in the least.

Walls and ceiling...

Even the framed photos on the walls...

Stopped in time.

All were as they had been 10 years ago...

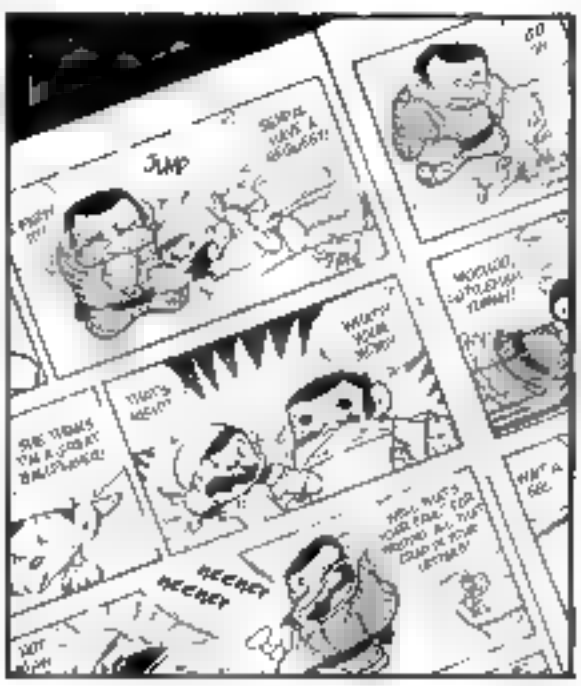
The space around the old manga bookshelves I spent so much time with

filled me with a strong sense of yearning.

There was a customer already seated in my traditional spot when I was a student, so I could not sit there...

Even the coffee, which none would have called "delicious," tasted the same...

I would read this manga and laugh out loud...



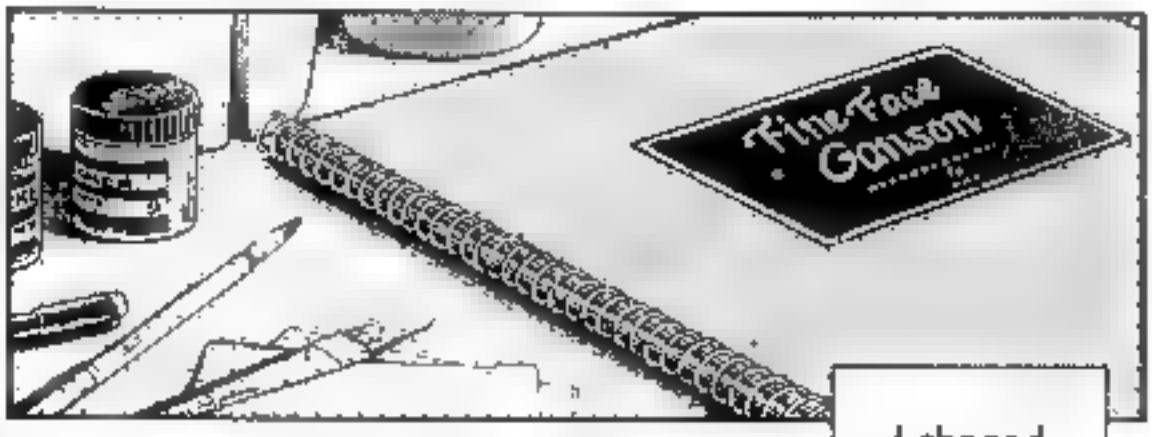
...Back then,

I would lament, mourn and rage at the newspaper and magazine articles...

I would raven-ously watch cheap, terrible movies,

and virulently argue with any who would listen...

And then,

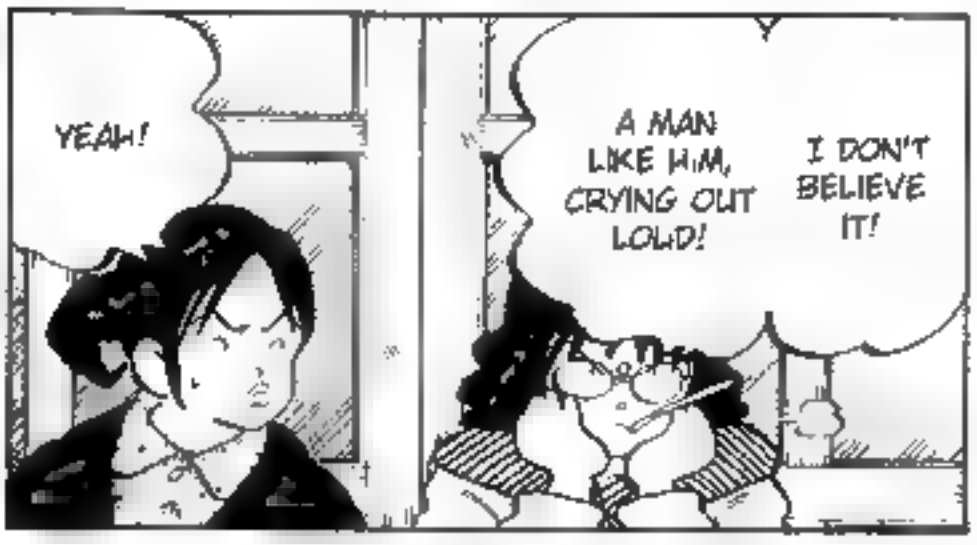


DASH

I even cried out loud in public, like he just did...
wahhh

I HAD HIM DANCING ON MY STRINGS WITHIN TWO WEEKS.
I TOLD YOU HE WOULD CRY.
YOU SAW MY BRILLIANT ACTING.

1,000 YEN EACH.
ALL RIGHT, I WON.


YEAH!
A MAN LIKE HIM, CRYING OUT LOUD!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

SPLASH
I WAS PROBABLY THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO HIM...
YOU NEVER KNOW.

DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
OH, COME ON.
IF HE KILLS HIMSELF, YOU BOTH OWE ME 10,000 EXTRA. ♡

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
YOU'RE JUST A WAITRESS HERE!

WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!
WH-WHAT?!

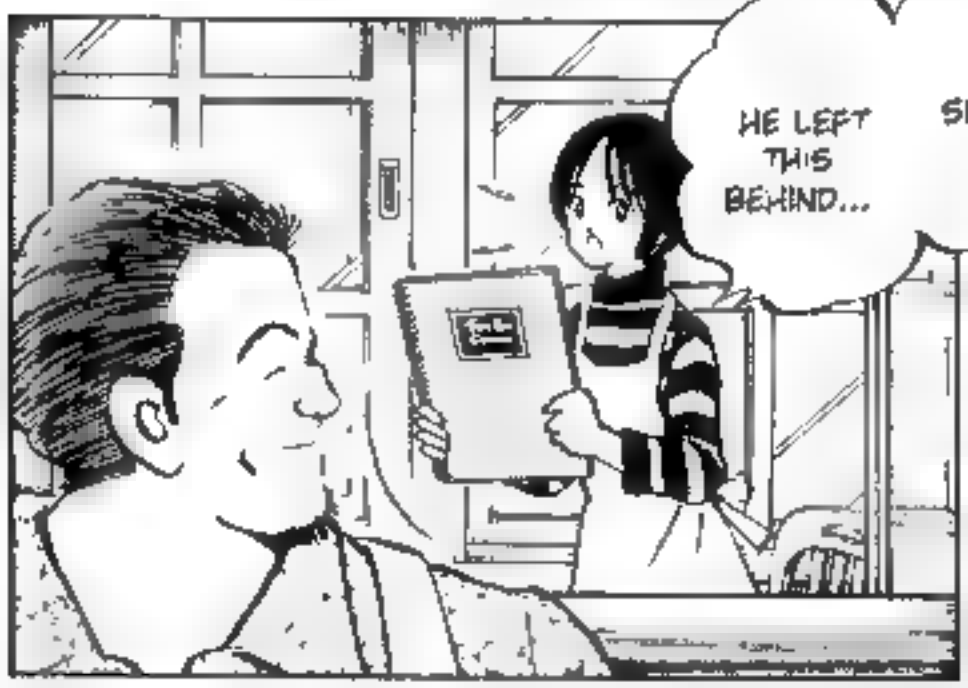
YOU DON'T NEED TO PAY YOUR BILL. JUST LEAVE.

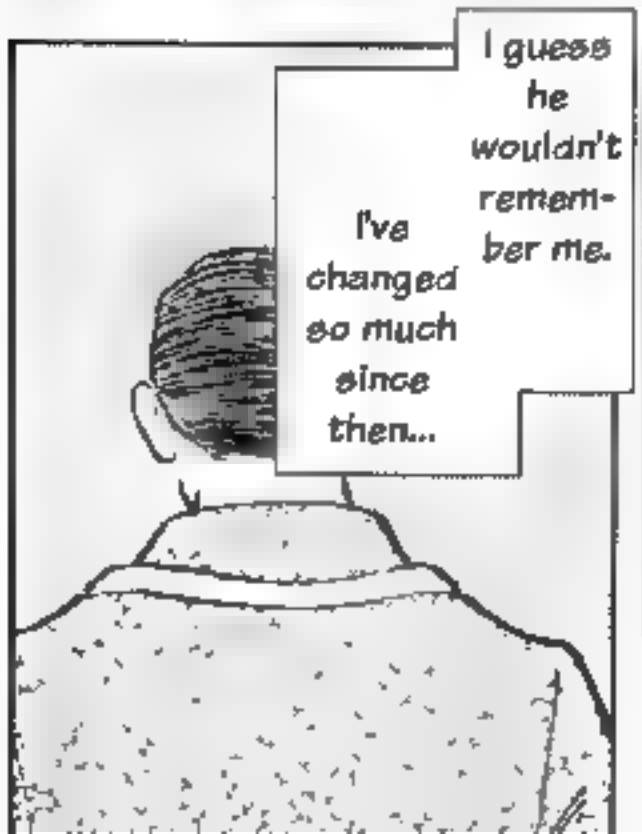
AND I'M "JUST" THE OWNER.

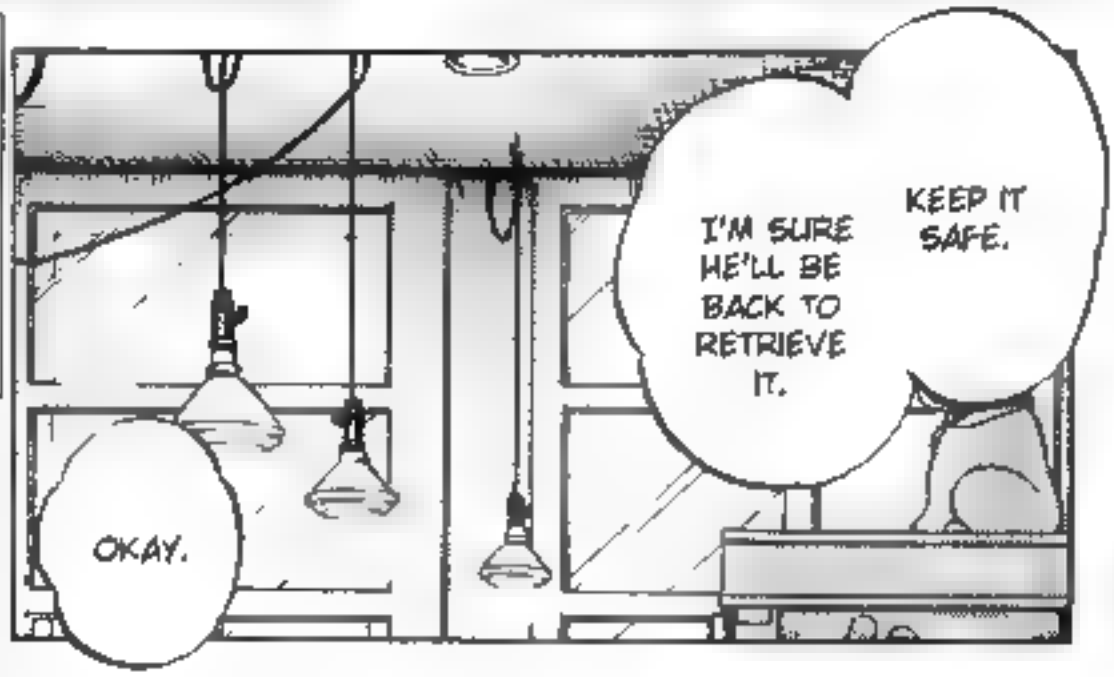
YOU DON'T NEED TO PAY YOUR BILL. JUST LEAVE.

The owner hasn't changed in 10 years.

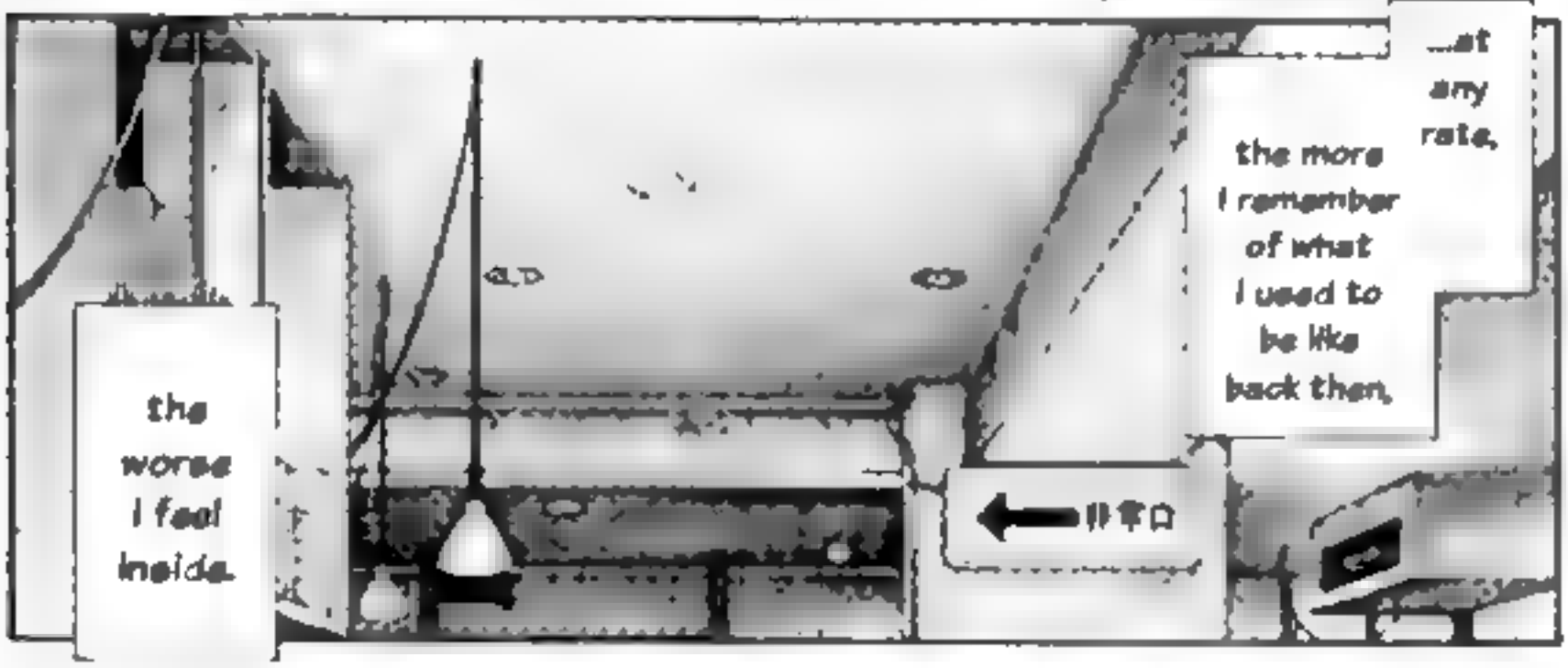
LET'S GO.
HMPH!

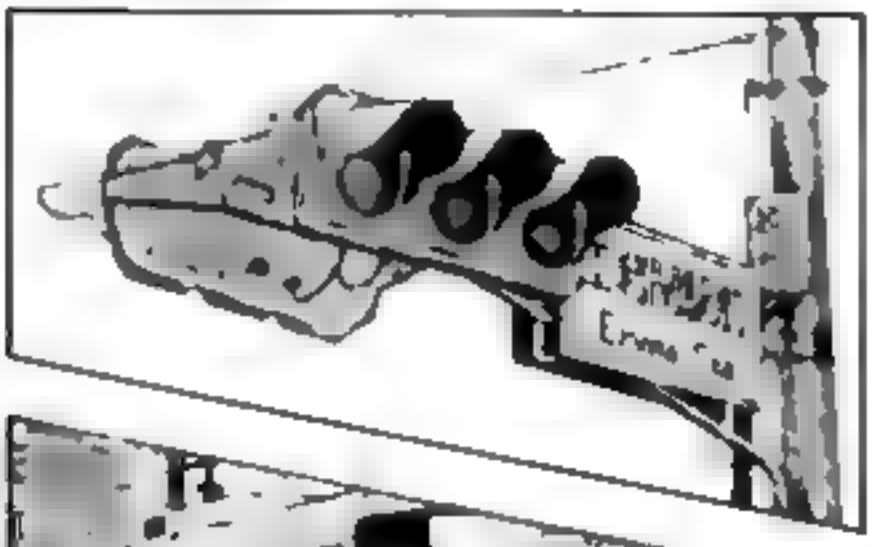

HE LEFT THIS BEHIND...
SIR.


I've changed so much since then...
I guess he wouldn't remember me.


OKAY.
I'M SURE HE'LL BE BACK TO RETRIEVE IT.
KEEP IT SAFE.

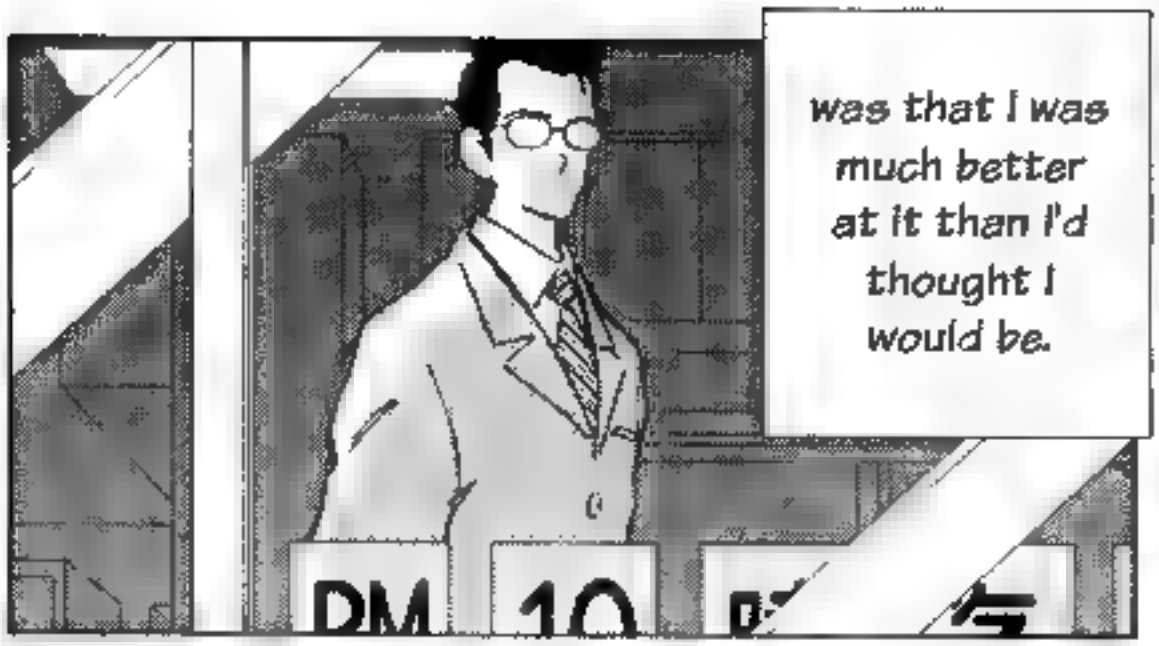
...

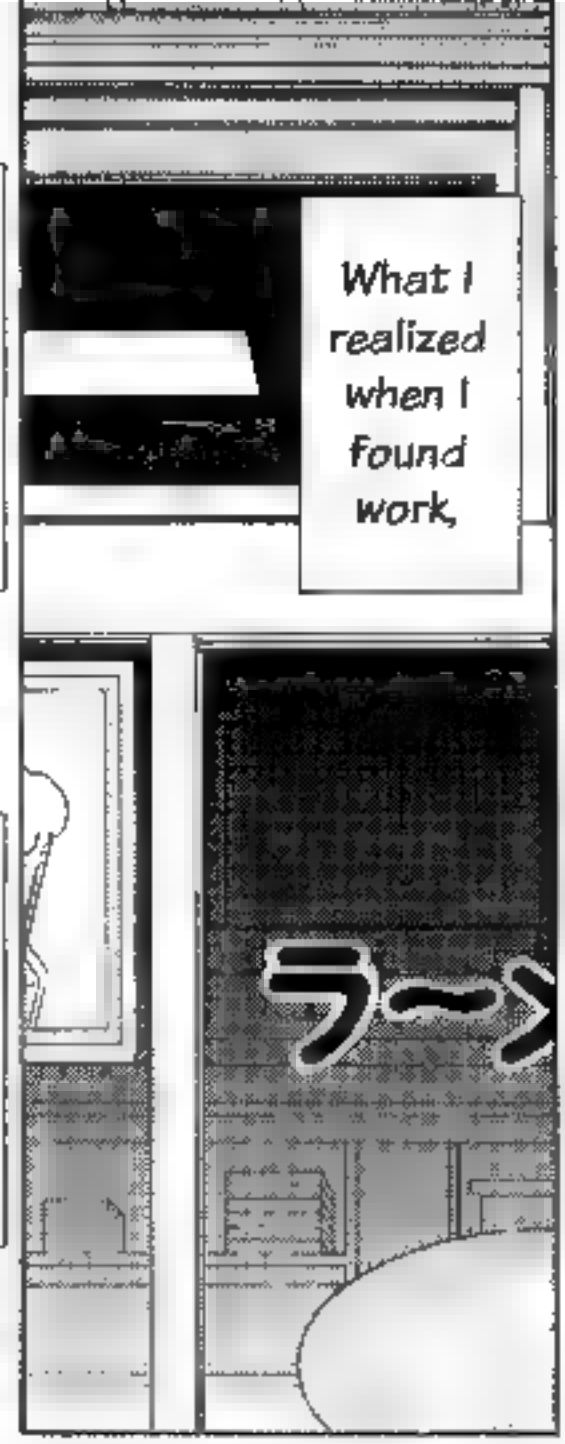

the more I remember of what I used to be like back then,
...at any rate,
the worse I feel inside.

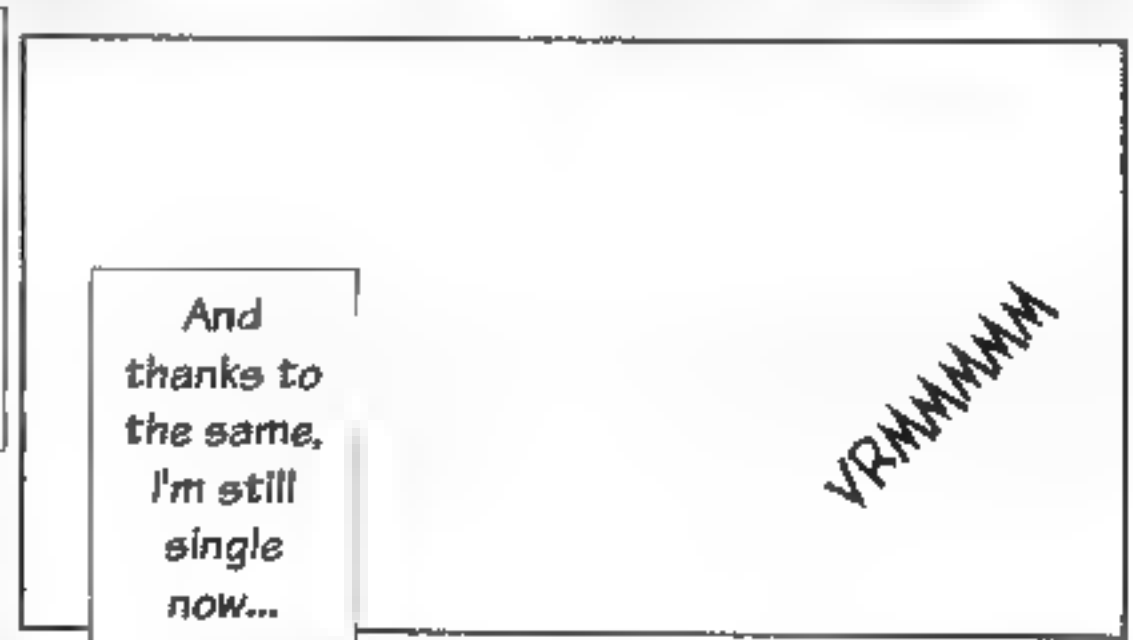


Asani
SOFT DRINKS

hannnk







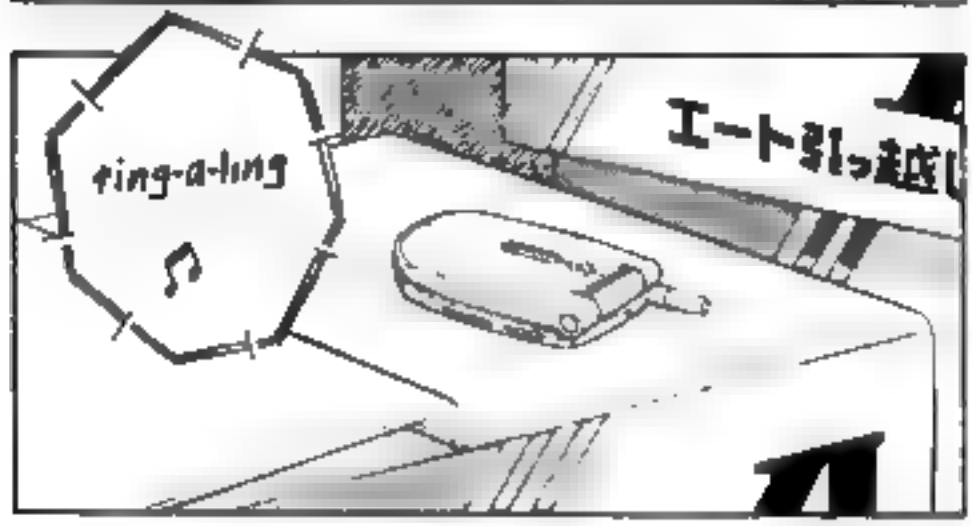
Sign: Rooms Open

...

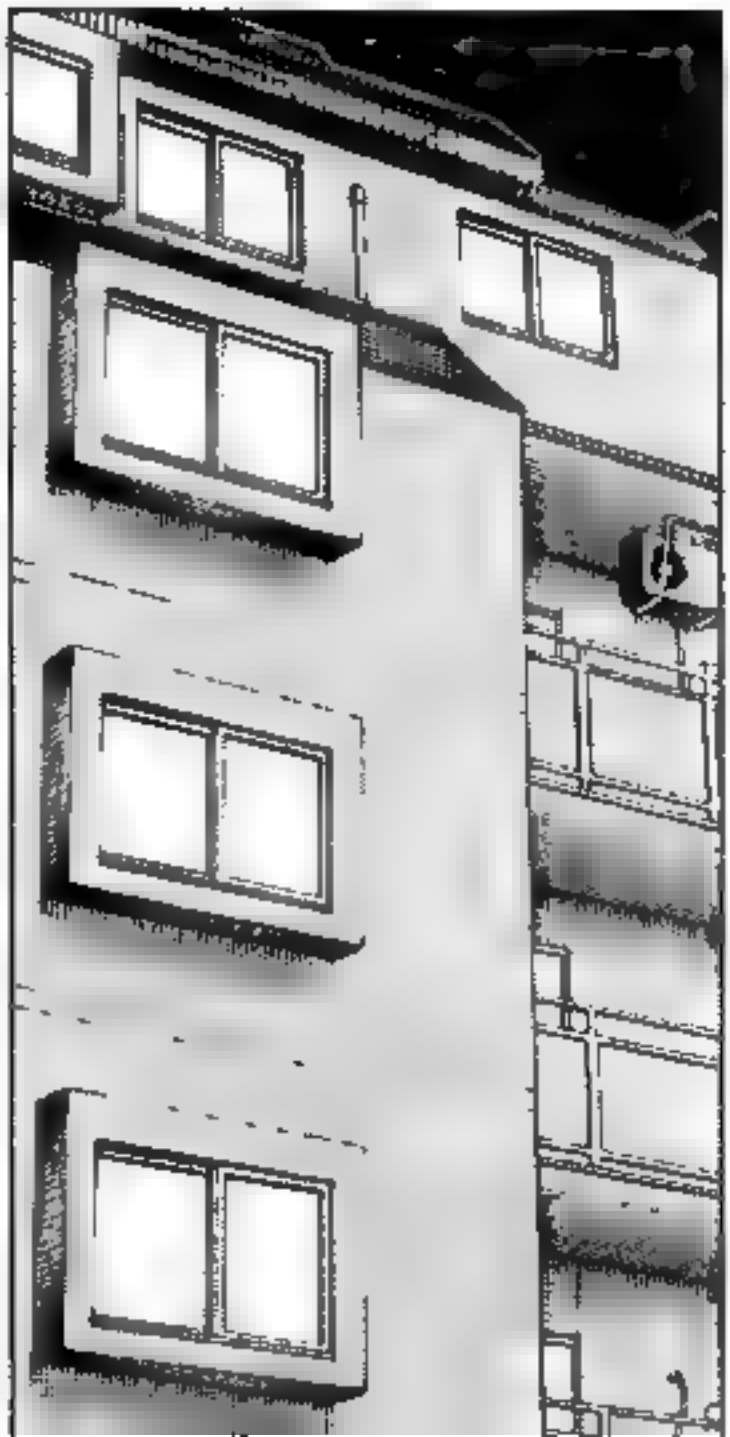
GYAHAHA
IT'S PERFECT!
WHADDAYA THINK?!
YER A GENIUS!
95
居酒屋

...idiot college students.
95

302
MIYADE
ting-a-ling


ting-a-ling

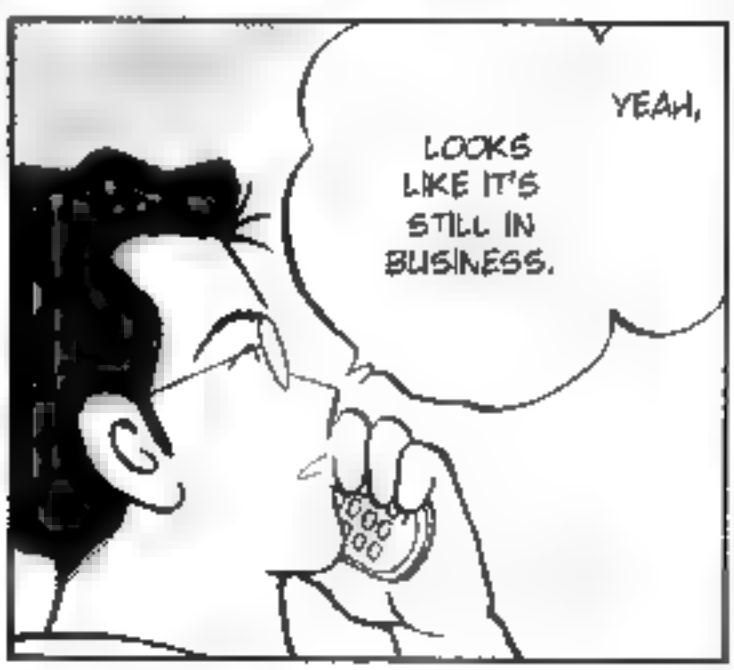
HELLO?
beep



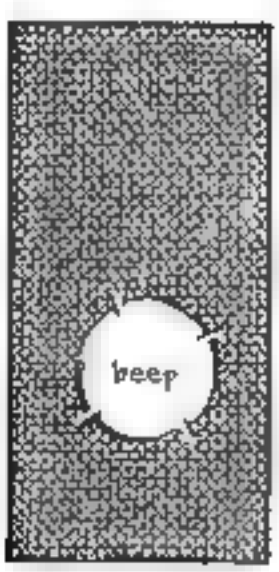
One of the few college friends I still kept in touch with after I graduated.
ARE YOU SETTLING IN NOW?
YEAH.
MOST OF MY STUFF IS STILL IN BOXES THOUGH.

HEY, MIYADE?!
IT'S ME, SAKA-MOTO!

He was the son of a grocery store,
and now he's married and runs it...
TOMOR-ROW?

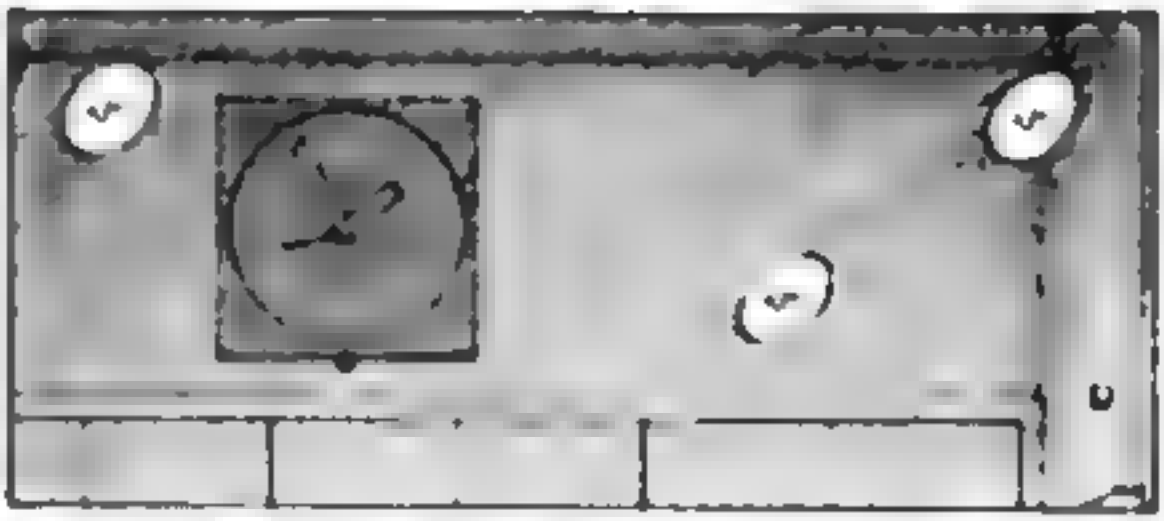

YEAH,
LOOKS LIKE IT'S STILL IN BUSINESS.

"TIMESTOP," IN FRONT OF THE STATION?


beep

ALL RIGHT.
I'LL SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.

URGH

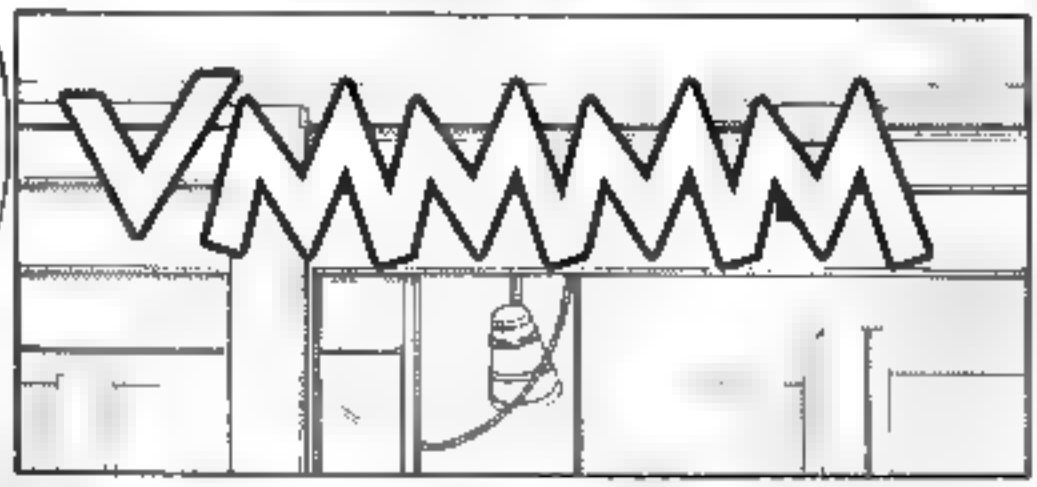


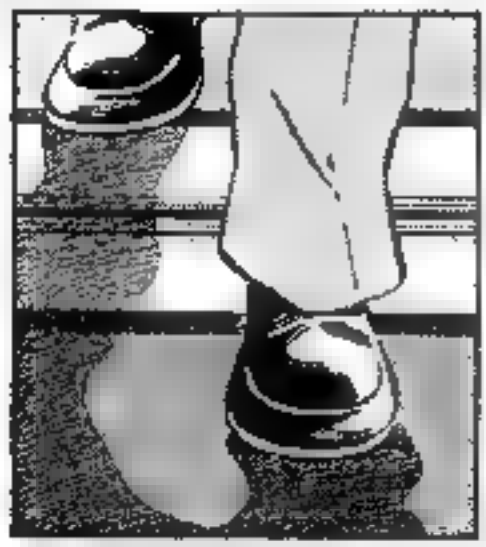
hark hark

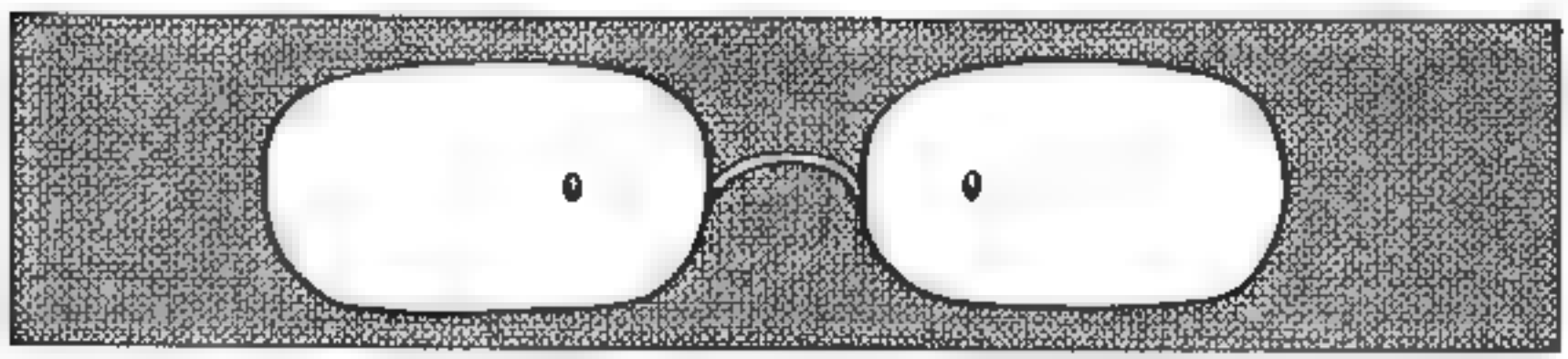
coffee
TIMESTOP

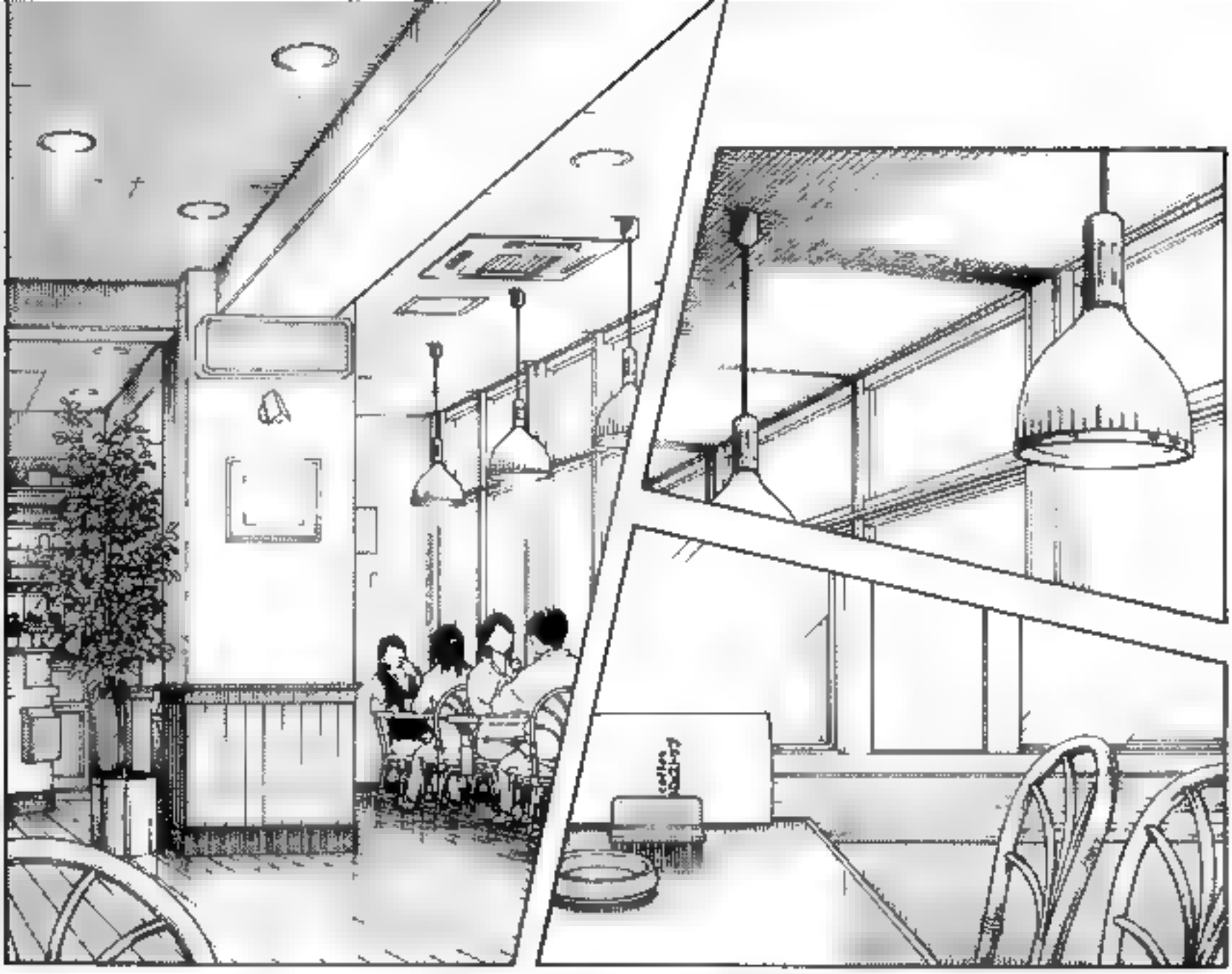
2F
BEAUTY
SALON
ks made
HIROKO AVAHCER
coffee
TIMESTOP

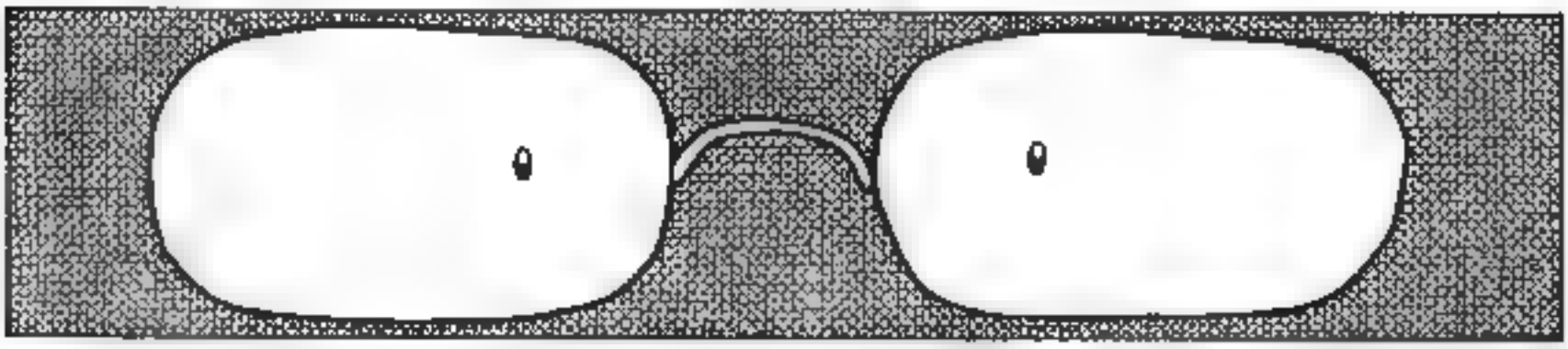
Fshh
WELCOME!

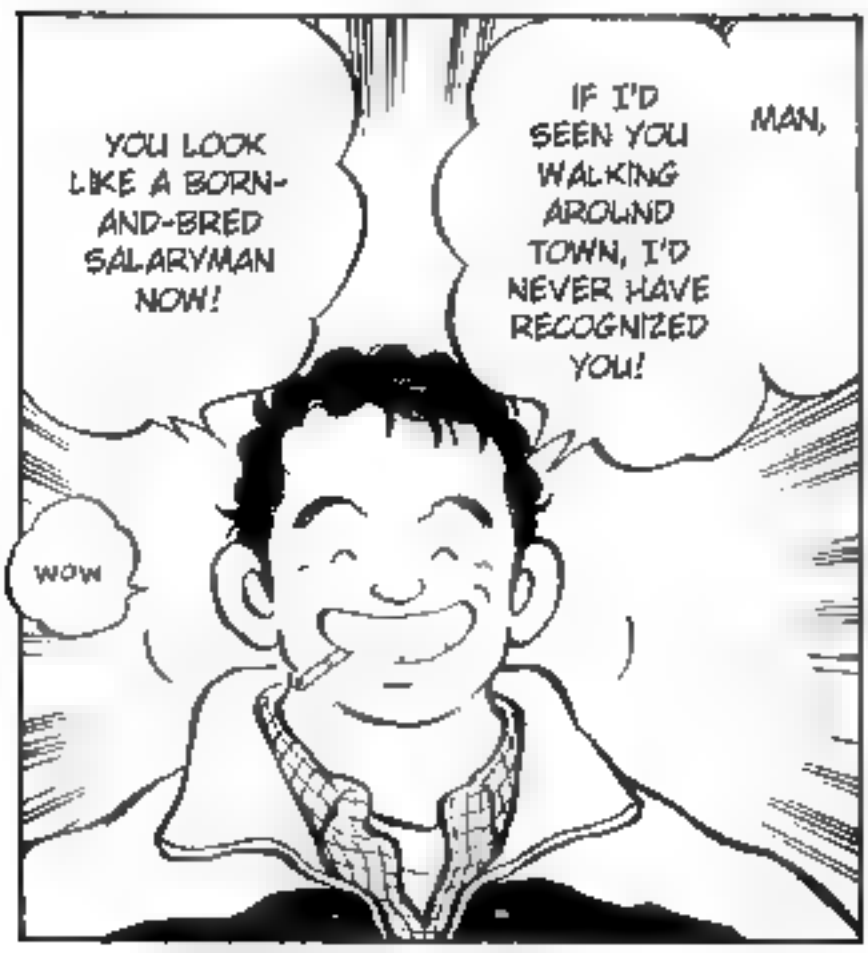








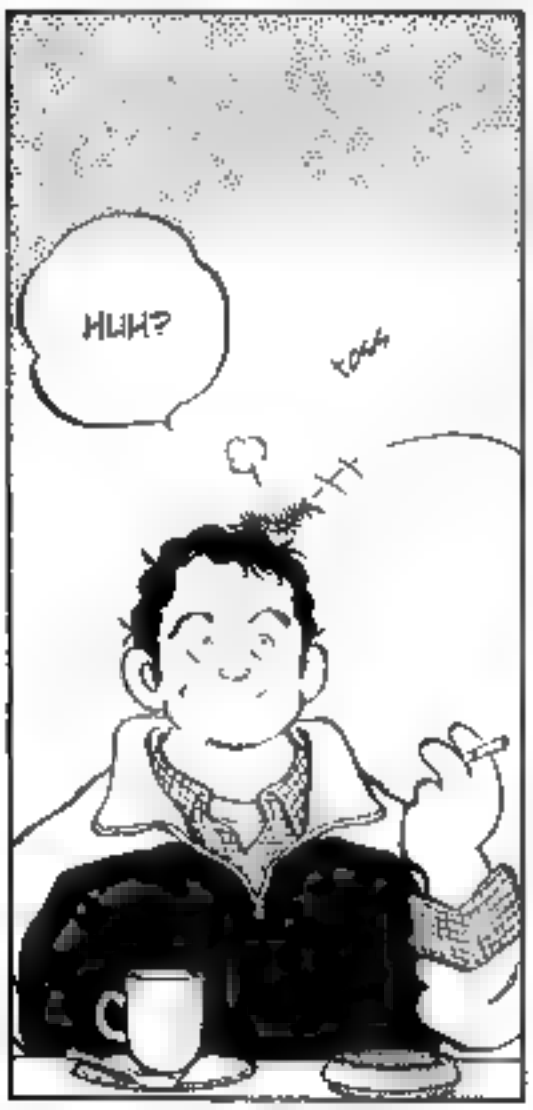


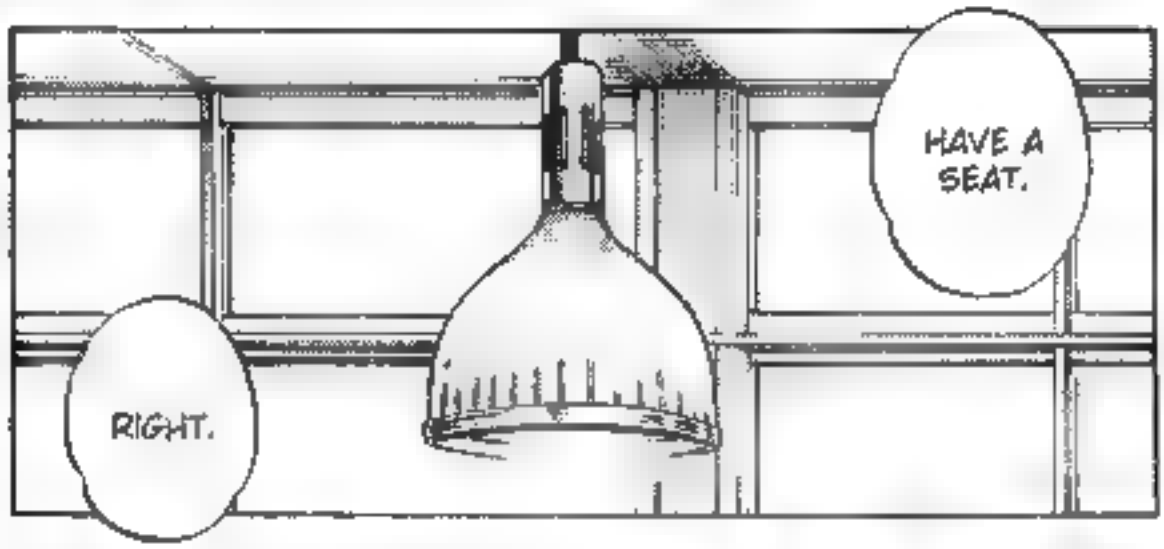

YOU LOOK LIKE A BORN-AND-BRED SALARYMAN NOW!
IF I'D SEEN YOU WALKING AROUND TOWN, I'D NEVER HAVE RECOGNIZED YOU!
MAN,
WOW

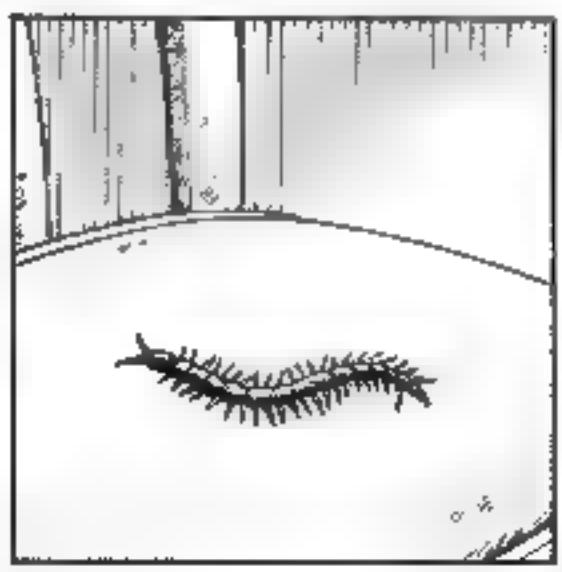
THAT YOU, MIYADE?!

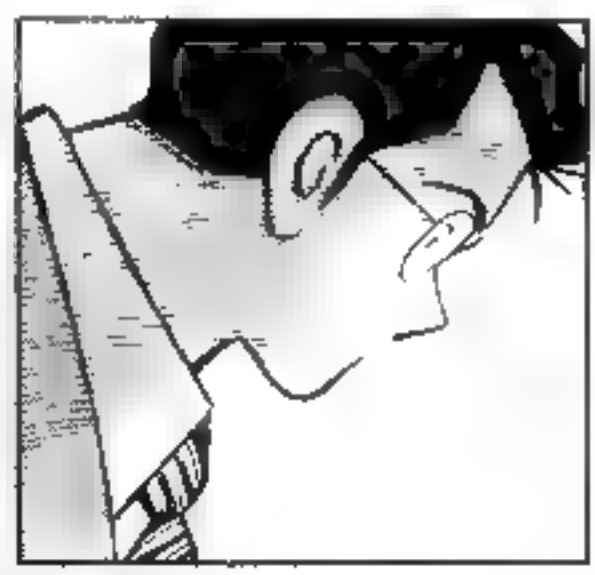
UM,
NOTHING.

OH-
WHAT'S UP?


HUH?
tock


HAVE A SEAT.
RIGHT.





YOU WERE SO EASY TO READ, BACK THEN.
COURSE NOT!

I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE.
THAT ALWAYS USED TO KNOCK YOU FOR A LOOP.
AWW, MAN.

ALL SO YOU COULD COME IN HERE AND GIVE ME THE NEWS.
AND HAD BLOOD GUSHING OUT YOUR NOSE.
TOTALLY SMACKED YOUR FACE ON THE AUTOMATIC DOOR,

WHAT HAPPENED WAS WRITTEN ON YOUR FACE PLAIN AS DAY!
NOT THAT I NEEDED THE REPORT.

YOU FINALLY BROKE THE NEWS TO THAT GIRL YOU HAD A CRUSH ON FOR THREE YEARS? JUNKO SHIMOYANAGI.
YOU REMEMBER THE DAY,

ANYWAYS,
YOUR FACE THAT DAY SAID YOU WERE THE HAPPIEST MAN IN JAPAN.

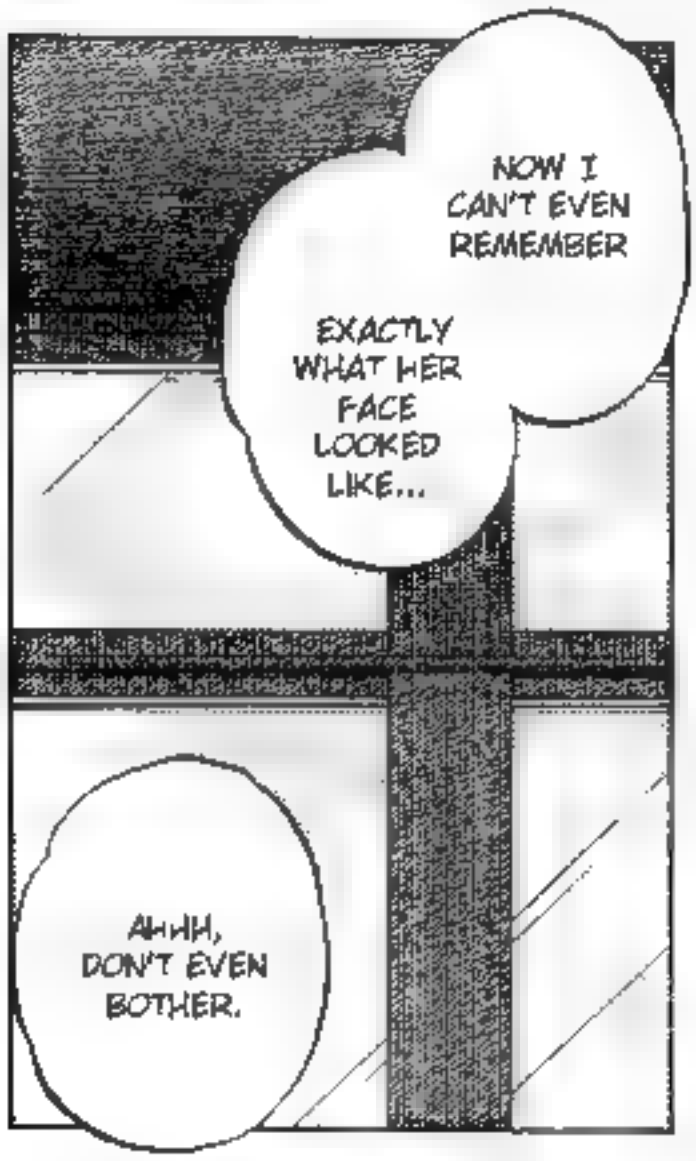
PLAIN COFFEE.
ACTUALLY, YOU USED TO SLAM YOUR FACE ON THE DOOR ALL THE TIME, NOT JUST THEN.

WELL, PEOPLE CHANGE.
clink

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CHANCES OF SUCCESS.
ONCE I HEARD YOU GOT A JOB AT A BANK,

I HAD HIM DANCING ON MY STRINGS,
WITHIN TWO WEEKS...

AND IT ONLY LASTED TWO WEEKS.

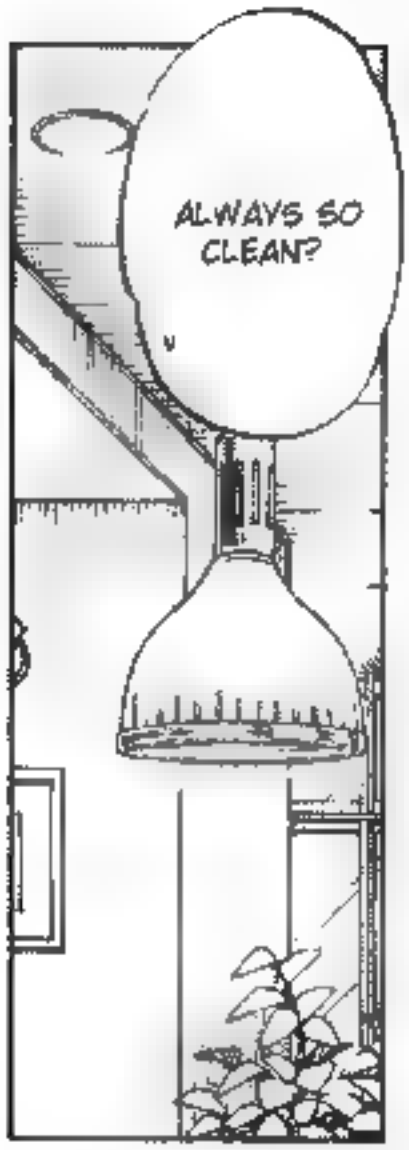

NOW I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER
EXACTLY WHAT HER FACE LOOKED LIKE...
AHHH, DON'T EVEN BOTHER.

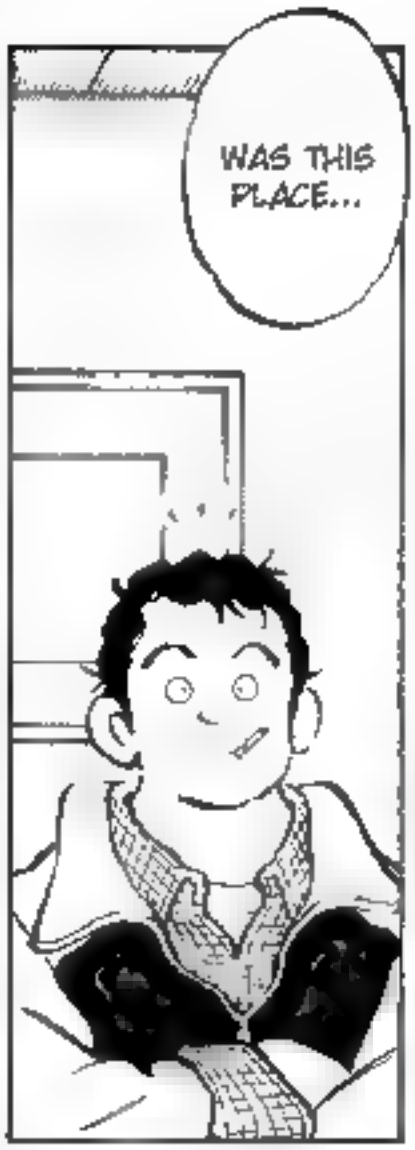
WHAT'S WRONG?

JUST THINKING, EVEN THOUGH I COULDN'T THINK ABOUT ANY OTHER WOMAN THROUGH COLLEGE,
OH, UH,

BUT JUNKO SHIMOYANAGI HAD A REAL BAD REPU-TATION.
I NEVER TOLD YOU, BECAUSE YOU WERE SO HEAD OVER HEELS FOR HER,

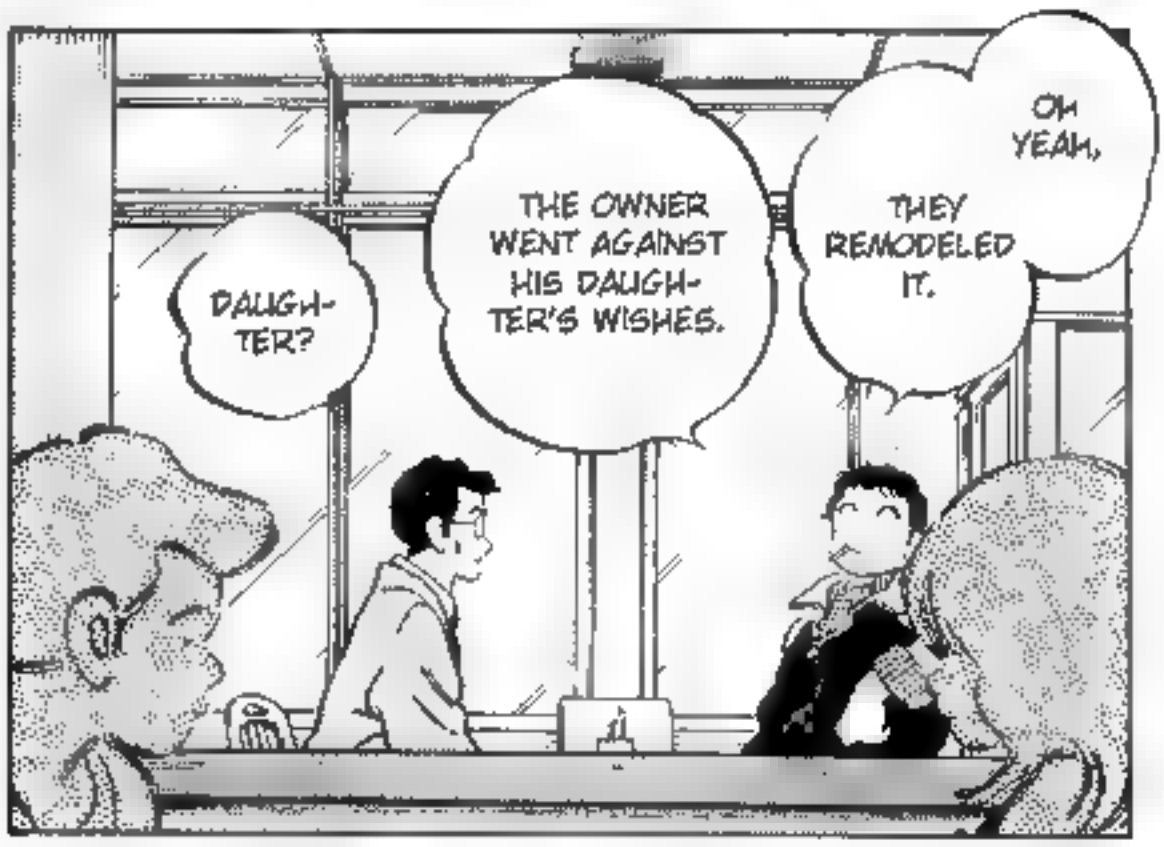
HUH?

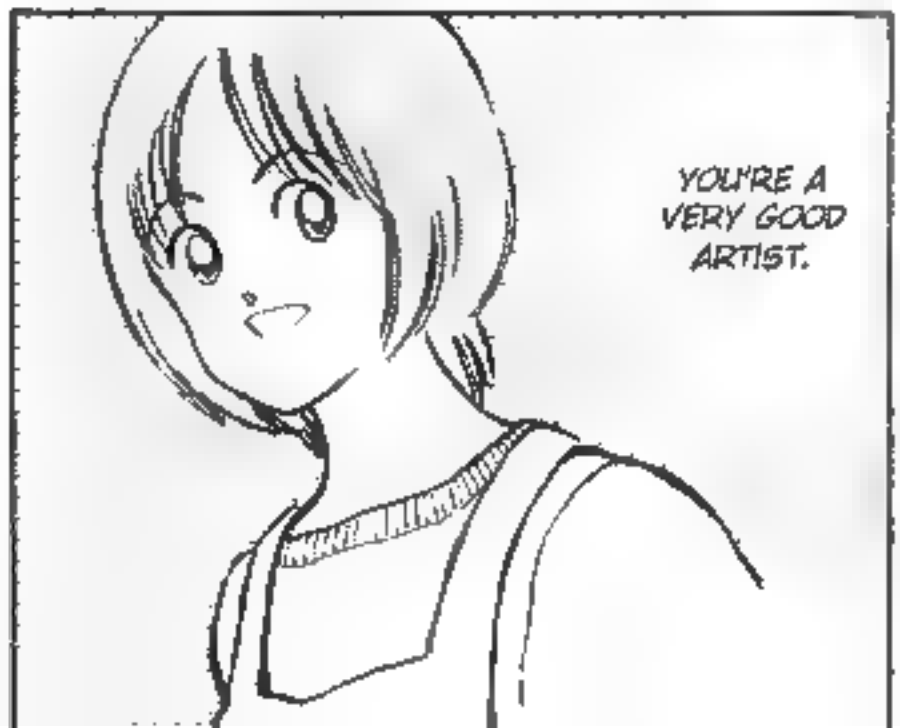

ALWAYS SO CLEAN?


WAS THIS PLACE...

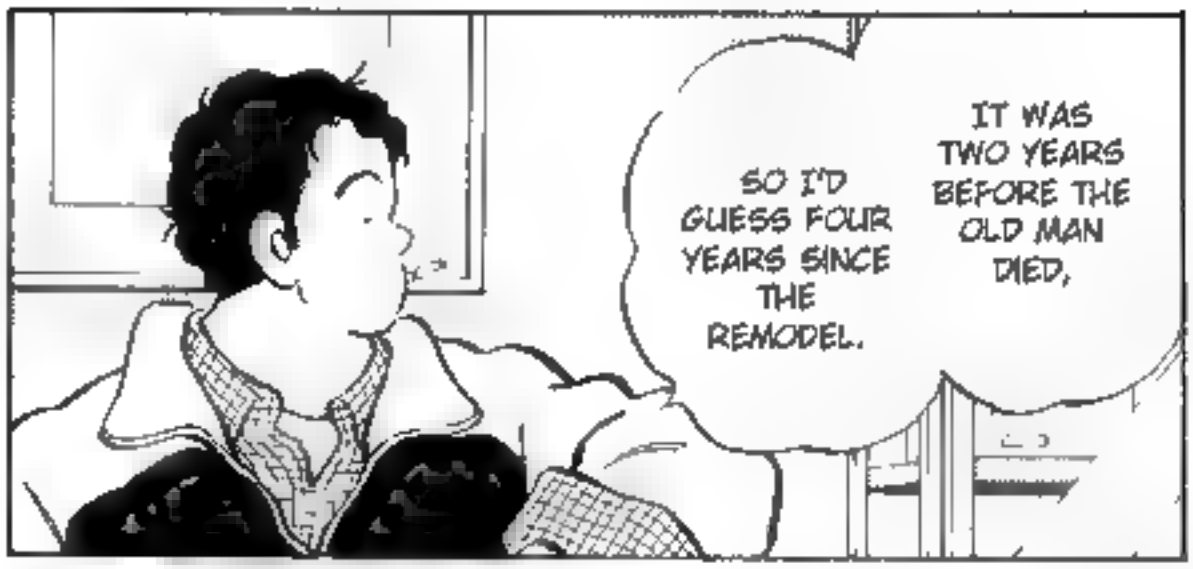
1,000 YEN EACH.
ALL RIGHT, I WON.

WHEN WE CAME HERE DURING COLLEGE, THERE WAS A KNOCKOUT HIGH SCHOOL GIRL WHO WAITED TABLES!
DON'T YOU REMEMBER?


DAUGHTER?
THE OWNER WENT AGAINST HIS DAUGHTER'S WISHES.
OH YEAH,
THEY REMODELED IT.

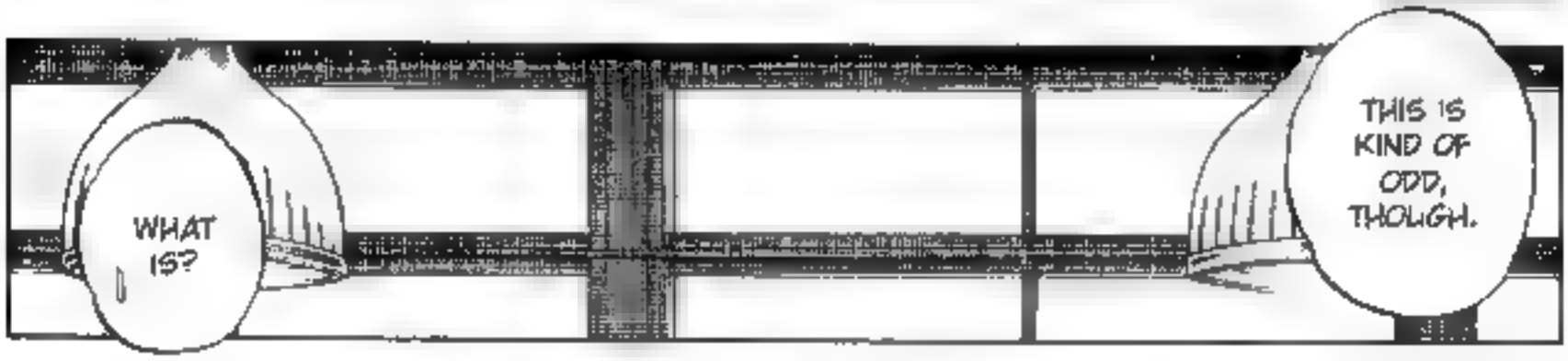

YOU'RE A VERY GOOD ARTIST.

AND I'M "JUST" THE OWNER.


SO I'D GUESS FOUR YEARS SINCE THE REMODEL.
IT WAS TWO YEARS BEFORE THE OLD MAN DIED,

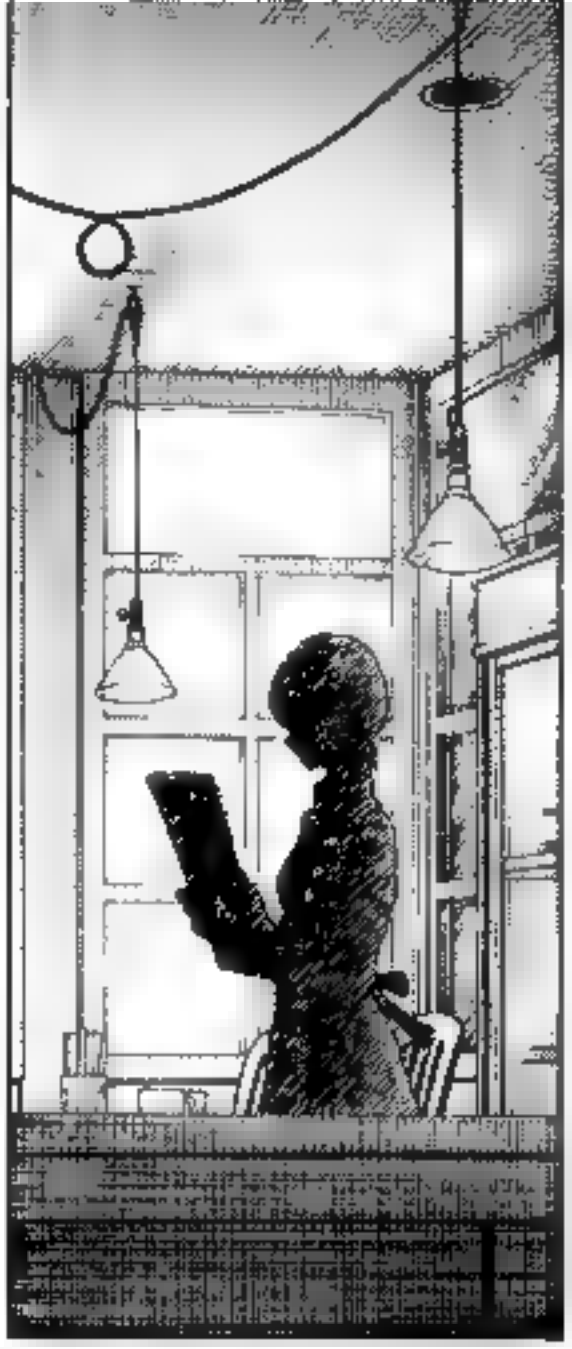
KNOWN FOR HER STUNNING GOOD LOOKS.
YEP, AND NOW THAT GIRL'S ALL GROWN UP AND RUNNING THE CAFE.

DIED?


WHAT IS?
THIS IS KIND OF ODD, THOUGH.

I'M SURE HE'LL BE BACK TO RETRIEVE IT.

IT'S NOT LIKE THEY COULD HAVE BEEN JUST SHORT OF THE MONEY TO GET ONE LITTLE CHAIR.
THEY REMODELED THE WHOLE PLACE TO LOOK NICE AND NEW, BUT ONLY THIS CHAIR IS STILL THE OLD STYLE.



NO, I'M FINE...
OH, UMM,
MAN, I'M HUNGRY.
YOU WANT SOMETHIN'?

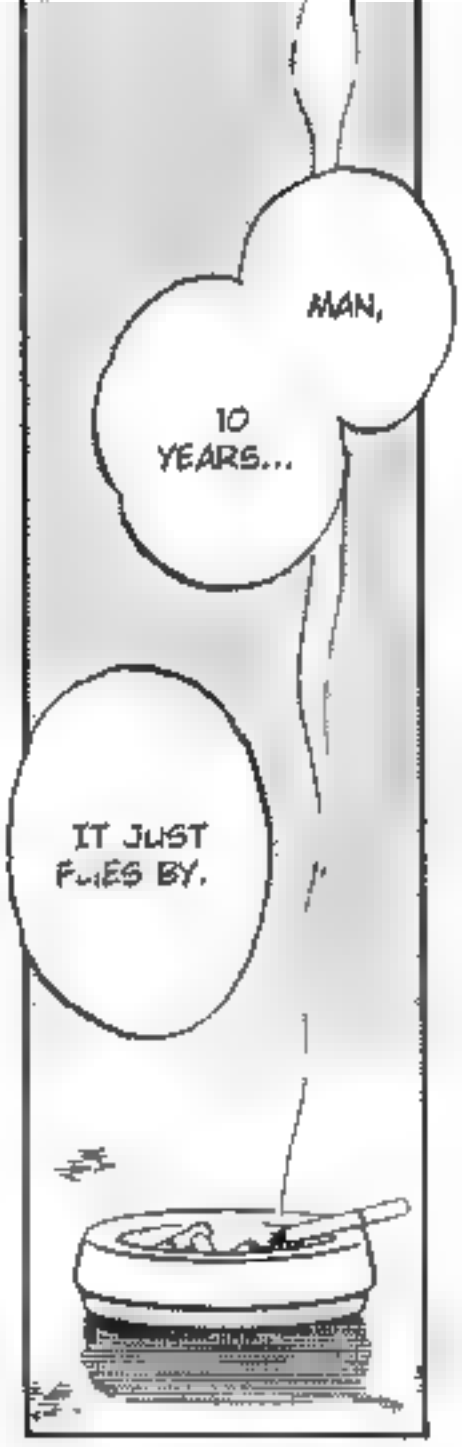
MENU
EXCUSE ME!

UHH, MAKE IT TWO.

HUH?
SURE YOU DON'T WANT ANY-THING?
I'LL HAVE A NAPOLI-TAN.

I REMEMBER YOU CARRYING AROUND A SKETCHBOOK YOU WOULD DRAW IN.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, DIDN'T YOU WANT TO BE A STORY-BOOK ARTIST?
OH!

BUT YOU SURE WERE GOOD AT IT.
I NEVER HAD ANY INTEREST IN ANYTHING LIKE THAT.


MAN,
10 YEARS...
IT JUST FLIES BY.

I BURNED IT.
BURNED ALL OF THEM...

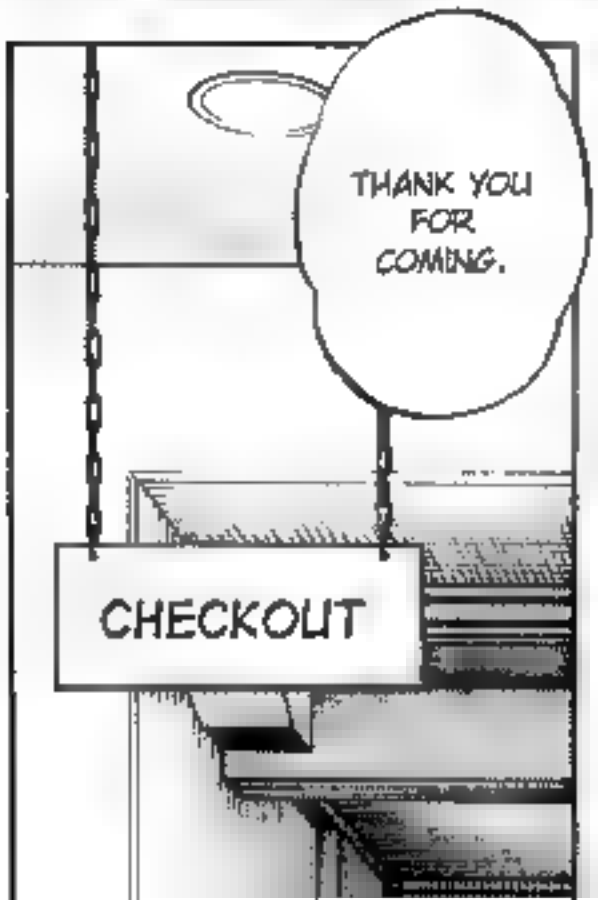
YOU'VE STILL GOT THE THING, DON'T YOU?
YOU SHOULD LET ME SEE IT SOME-TIME.

NO...

EVERYTHING I HAD ON HAND...

YOU WILL?
I'LL PICK UP THE BILL.

NOW THEN.


THANK YOU FOR COMING.
CHECKOUT

YOU DO THAT.
I'LL SHOW THIS BACHELOR THE JOYS OF GOOD HOME COOKING.
ALL RIGHT! YOU'LL HAVE TO STOP BY MY PLACE, THEN.

TOILET→
I'M GONNA TAKE A PIT STOP.
UH, SURE.

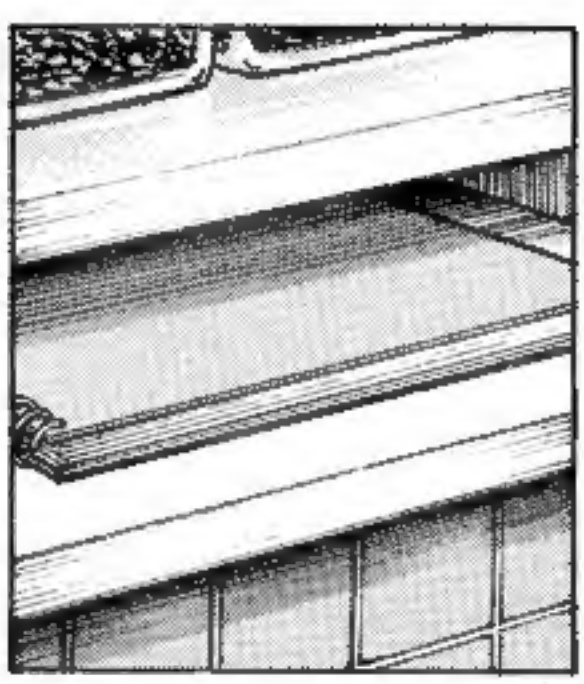
THAT'S THE OWNER.

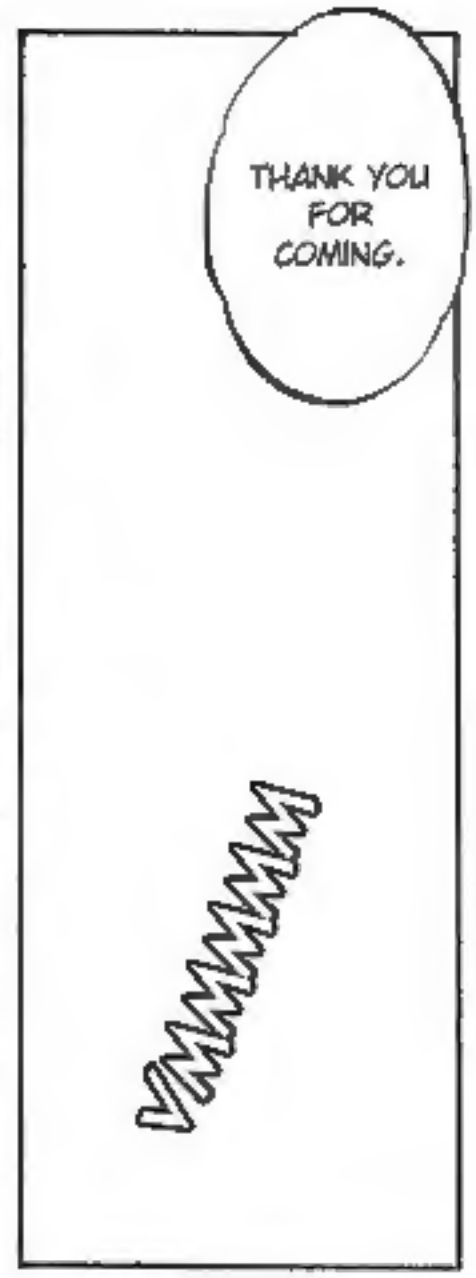
250 YEN IS YOUR CHANGE.
CHECK THE COINS.

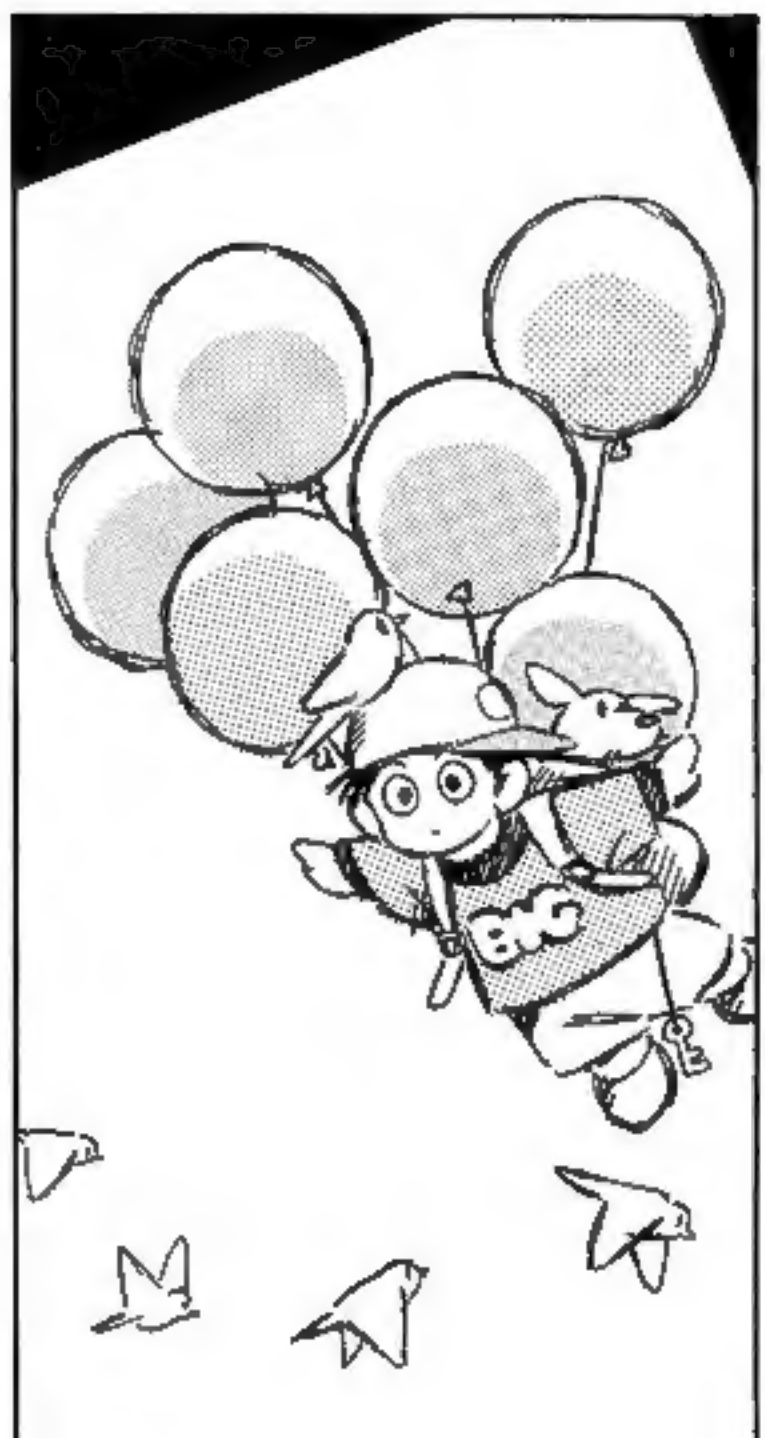
JUST... THE RECEIPT.

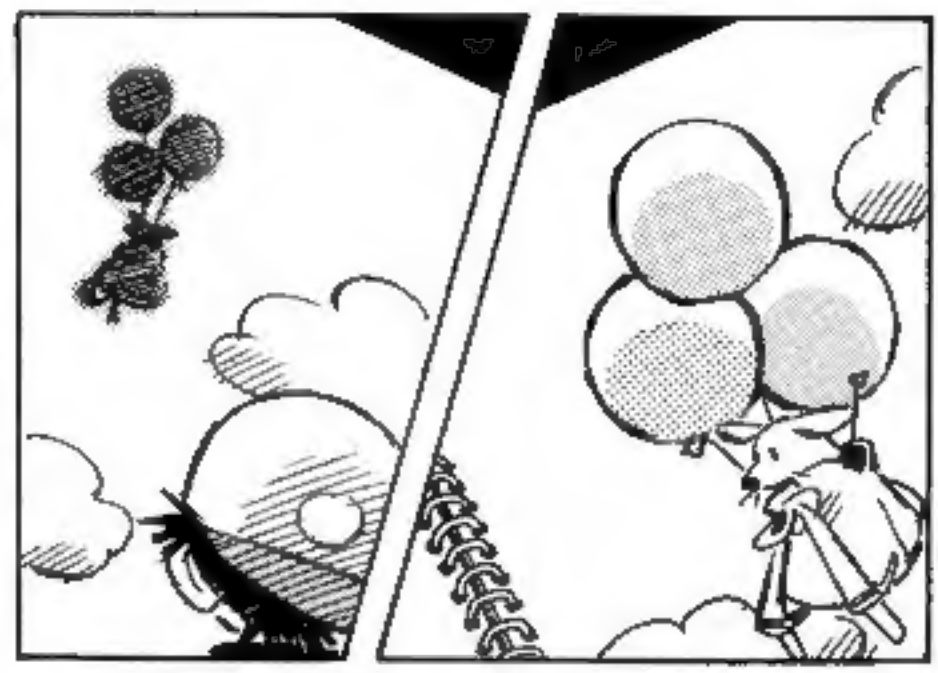
UH, NO...
HUH?

IS THERE ANY-THING ELSE?



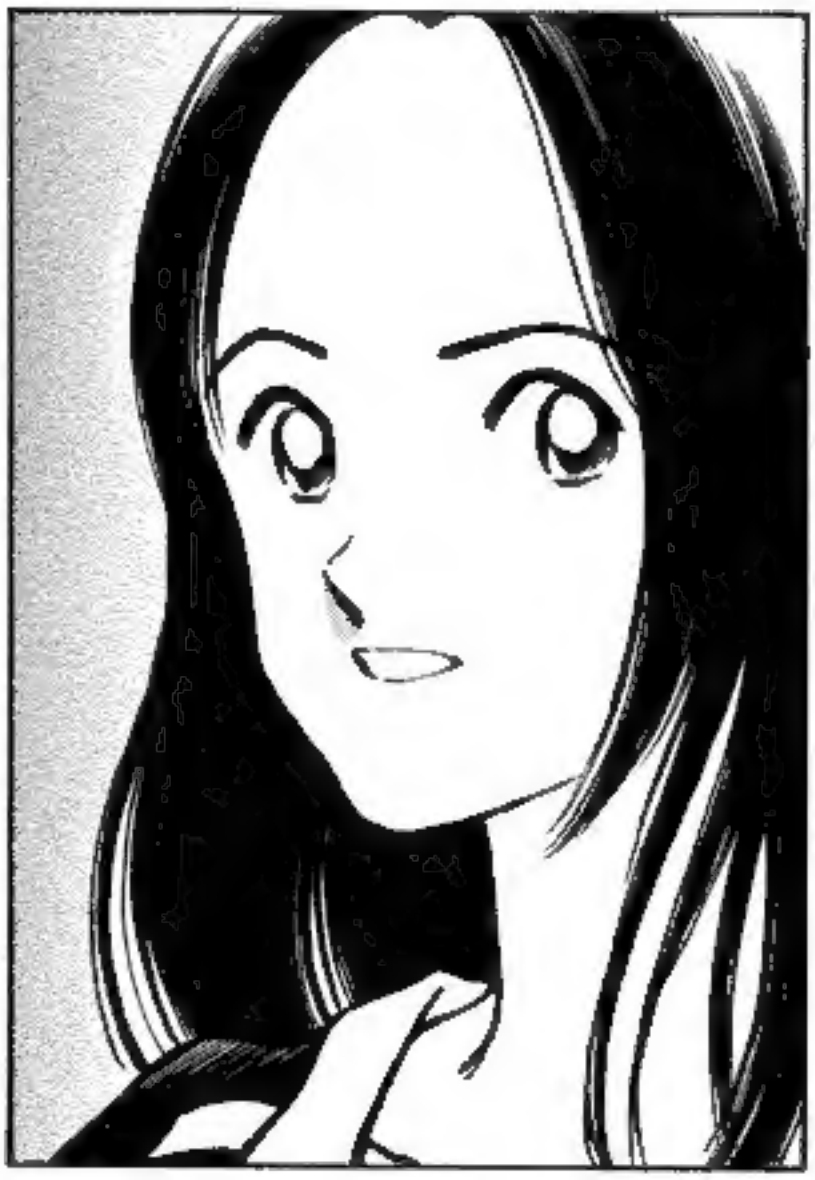

THANK YOU FOR COMING.

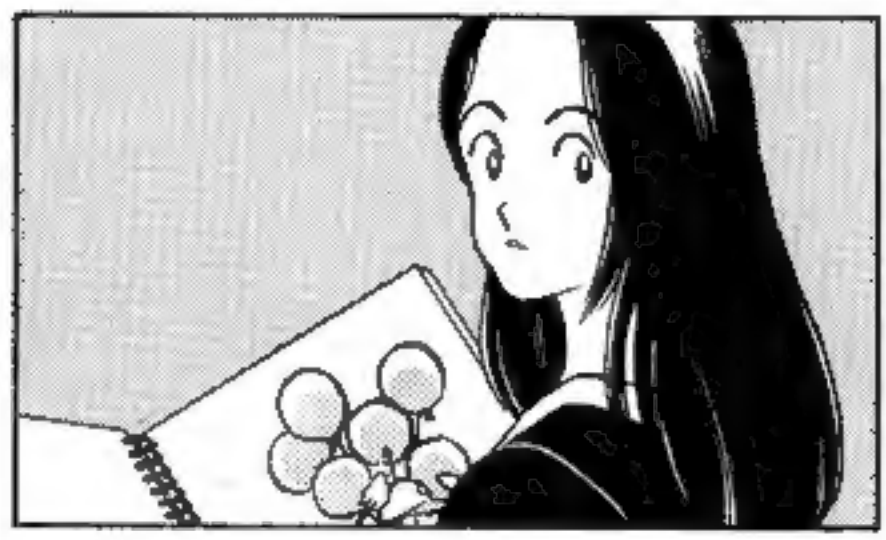

BIG

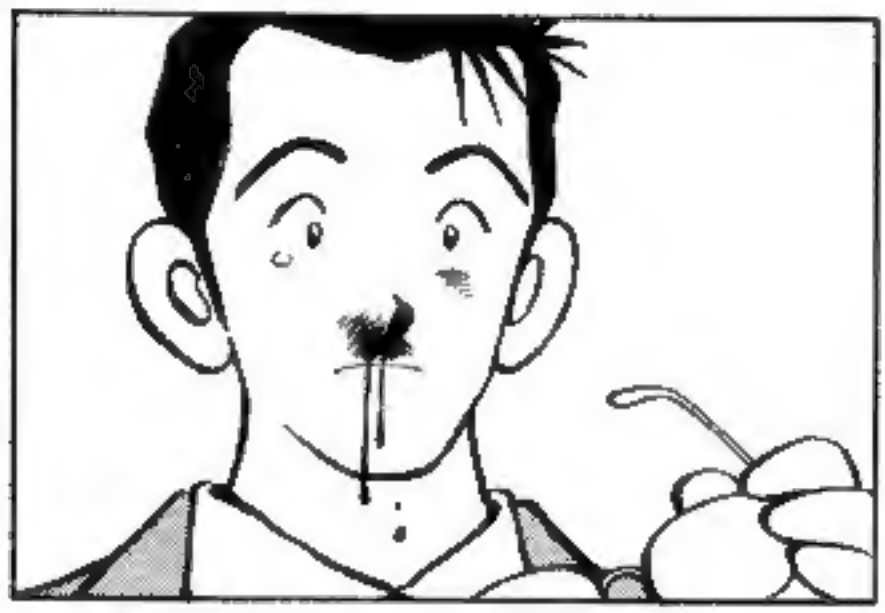


THWACK

WMM
MMM







YES.

DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?

MENU
coffee
TIMESTOP
BUT IT WAS 10 YEARS AGO...

Originally Published
(Big Comic Original)

Chapter 1
Oct 20 1998 Issue

Chapter 2
Mar 20 2000 Issue

Chapter 3
Mar 5 2001 Issue

Chapter 4
Jul 5 2002 Issue

Chapter 5
Jun 5 2003 Issue

Chapter 6
Jun 5 2004 Issue

Chapter 7
Apr 20 2005 Issue